

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: With more than 82,000 adult offenders currently incarcerated in state facilities or on parole or probation, Arkansas is committed to lowering recidivism through an effective reentry process that provides offenders with opportunities for success in the community; and

WHEREAS: At least ninety percent of state prison inmates will be released from prison at some point in their sentence, but they can face obstacles long after their incarceration ends. A criminal record can create barriers to rejoining the workforce; finding adequate housing; securing transportation; and meeting financial obligations. These barriers contribute to more than fifty percent of offenders returning to prison within three years of release; and

WHEREAS: Because high recidivism increases the cost of corrections and puts Arkansas citizens at a greater risk of becoming victims of crime, it is imperative that offenders returning to the community have the programs, services, and support they need to become productive, crime-free citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS: Reentry provides offenders with the tools necessary to turn away from criminal behavior and embrace a better future where they are contributing to society and taking care of their families; and

WHEREAS: State agencies across Arkansas are focused on reentry, but Arkansas reentry efforts extend well beyond correctional agencies through partnerships with community-based groups, faith-based organizations and volunteers across the state that can assist offenders returning to their communities; and

WHEREAS: Arkansans can enhance public safety by supporting and joining reentry efforts that decrease the number of new crimes and offer hope for offenders returning home from incarceration;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 26<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021, as

**REENTRY AWARENESS WEEK**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord 2021.



*Asa Hutchinson*

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest

*John Thurston*  
John Thurston, Secretary of State