

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as “Lou Gehrig’s Disease,” is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by cell degeneration in the spinal cord; and

WHEREAS: The initial symptom of ALS is weakness of the muscles, especially those of the extremities, and, as ALS progresses, the patient has trouble swallowing, talking, and breathing; and

WHEREAS: ALS eventually causes muscle atrophy, and the patient becomes a functional quadriplegic; and

WHEREAS: ALS does not affect a patient’s mental capacity, so the patient remains alert and aware of his or her loss of motor functions; and

WHEREAS: ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure, and, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS only survive two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS: Research indicates that military veterans are up to twice as likely to develop ALS, prompting the Department of Veterans Affairs to investigate a potential connection between military service and ALS; and

WHEREAS: A national ALS patient registry, administered by the Centers for Disease Control, is identifying cases of ALS in the United States and may become the single largest ALS research project ever created; and

WHEREAS: While there is no widely available cure for ALS, it is critical that Arkansans and others affected by this disease have access to quality, affordable care, and that research of this disease continues to find new treatments;

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 May 2022, as

ALS AWARENESS MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, in the year of our Lord 2022.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State