

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Families are Arkansas's most valuable resource for caring for loved ones who have extraordinary needs, including those suffering from developmental and physical disabilities, mental and emotional disorders, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and extreme medical needs; and

WHEREAS: Parents and caregivers often face the difficulties of finding personal time for themselves or their families and they also face the challenge of heavy financial burdens. These concerns can lead to stress and lowered energy and stamina, and when left unaddressed, can reduce their effectiveness as caregivers, and even damage their own health; and

WHEREAS: Respite is the act of providing physical and emotional relief to families who are responsible for the day-to-day care of loved ones with extraordinary needs; and

WHEREAS: In its many forms, respite care strengthens the ability of families and caregivers to meet the challenging and intensive demands of ongoing care and to cope in times of family crisis; and

WHEREAS: Respite care services can reduce the costs society must bear in contending with abuse and neglect, and these services can help keep families out of already overburdened and expensive social-welfare systems; and

WHEREAS: Having periodic respite care for patients enables many of the families and caregivers to be temporarily relieved of the constant strain of caring for their loved ones who are unable to care for themselves;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, 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 October 29, 2014, as

ARKANSAS LIFESPAN RESPITE AWARENESS DAY

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge all my fellow citizens to recognize families, caregivers, individuals, and professionals who provide much-needed respite care services.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 29th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2014.



MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR

MARK MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE