

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:\

WHEREAS: Dyslexia is a specific learning disability, which is neurological in origin and is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. This language-processing disorder can hinder reading, writing, spelling, and sometimes even speaking, despite normal vision and intelligence; and

WHEREAS: Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge, along with difficulty in the classroom setting; and

WHEREAS: Literacy and numeric skills are critical for educational success, and research has revealed that students who read at grade level by third grade vastly outperform those who do not read at grade level, and continue do so consistently throughout their educational careers; and

WHEREAS: Research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) indicates that as many as one-in-every-five individuals struggles with dyslexia and related learning disabilities, and the NIH also reports that dyslexia can be identified with 92 percent accuracy by the time a child is six years old, and

WHEREAS: National studies show that more than 30 percent of juveniles involved in the criminal-justice system have a learning disability; and

WHEREAS: Teachers and students across Arkansas would benefit from increased professional training about alternate methods of teaching dyslexic students and the scientifically-based strategies designed to better educate students with these learning differences; and

WHEREAS: Parents and educators of students who strive to overcome dyslexia across Arkansas and the nation have come together to support and advocate for their children;

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 2014, as:

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I urge all my fellow citizens to join me in raising awareness of the challenges posed by dyslexia.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 10th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2014.



MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR

MARK MARTIN, SECRETARY OF STATE