STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

EO 21 -07

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO RENEW THE DISASTER AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD AND IMPACT OF COVID-19

WHEREAS: An outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has spread throughout the world resulting in a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS: On March 11, 2020, by Executive Order 20-03, an emergency was declared in the state as a result of COVID-19, pursuant to the Emergency Services Act at Ark. Code Ann. §§ 12-75-101, *et seq.* The emergency was subsequently renewed by Executive Order 20-25; and

WHEREAS: On June 18, 2020, by Executive Order 20-37, the emergency declared pursuant to Executive Order 20-03, and its amendments was terminated, and the public health and disaster emergency and declaration of the State of Arkansas as a disaster area resulting from the state-wide impact of COVID-19 was declared anew, pursuant to the Emergency Services Act at Ark. Code Ann. §§ 12-75-101, *et seq.* The emergency was subsequently renewed by Executive Orders 20-45, 20-48, 20-51, 20-53 and 21-03; and

WHEREAS: The current state of emergency expires on March 31, 2021, unless it is renewed pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 12-75-107; and

WHEREAS: COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the United States and Arkansas. Over 500,000 Americans, including over 5,500 Arkansans, have died as a result of COVID-19. The nationwide state of emergency declared on March 13, 2020, and the national public health emergency declared on January 27, 2020, remain in effect. All fifty (50) states continue to either maintain a state of emergency or measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas continues to make progress in reducing the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations; however, until COVID-19 vaccinations are available to more Arkansans, the virus and its variants remain a public health threat; and

WHEREAS: Continuation of the public health emergency is required to maintain maximum access to resources and flexibility for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine and the ability to respond to increased cases and hospitalizations until more Arkansans have received the vaccine. Additionally, executive orders issued pursuant to the emergency should be continued until such time as the Arkansas General Assembly has an opportunity to determine whether these measures should become part of Arkansas law;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, acting under the authority vested in me by Ark. Code Ann. §§ 12-75-101, *et seq.*, in consultation with Secretary of Health, do hereby declare upon the signing of this Executive Order that the emergency declared pursuant to Executive Order 20-37, and renewed by Executive Orders 20-45, 20-48, 20-53, and 21-03 is again renewed pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 12-75-

107, and the public health and disaster emergency and declaration of the State of Arkansas as a disaster area resulting from the state-wide impact of COVID-19 shall continue until May 30, 2021. The emergency shall expire at 11:59pm on May 30, 2021.

FURTHERMORE, the following executive orders are adopted and incorporated herein, as if set out word for word, and shall remain in effect until the expiration or renewal of this order, or until such time as the Arkansas General Assembly enacts legislation to provide the citizens of Arkansas with the resources provided by these orders, whichever is earlier:

a. Executive Order 20-05, regarding telehealth;
b. Executive Order 20-14, regarding the suspension of in-person witnessing and notarization of legal documents;
c. Executive Order 20-18 and Executive Order 20-52, regarding access to healthcare resources;
d. Executive Order 20-33, regarding the protection of businesses from liability related to COVID-19; and
e. Executive Order 21-06, regarding the extension of the state individual tax filing deadline to May 17, 2021.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 31st day of March, in the year of our Lord 2021.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

John Thurston, Secretary of State