STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS: EO 20 - 16

EXECUTIVE ORDER TO AMEND EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-03 REGARDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY CONCERNING COVID-19 FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXTENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER 20-06 TO ASSIST STATE AGENCIES IN RENDERING MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE TO THE CITIZENS OF ARKANSAS.

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, and that emergency is on-going; and

WHEREAS: COVID-19 continues to spread throughout the United States and Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Citizens of the state have been advised to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including the advisement to minimize person to person contact, avoid large gatherings, and to stay home if they feel ill; and

WHEREAS: Laws of this state and rules and regulations of this state require in person communication to receive services and conduct business; and

WHEREAS: Many citizens of this state are temporarily without employment due to the closure of businesses to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and need immediate access to unemployment benefits; and

WHEREAS: On March 17, 2020, by Executive Order 20-06, Executive Order 20-03 was amended to order all state agencies to identify provisions of any statute, order, or rule that prevents, hinders, or delays the agency's ability to render maximum assistance to Arkansas citizens during this emergency; and

WHEREAS: Executive Order 20-06 suspended statutes, orders, and rules identified by state agencies for a period of thirty days from March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS: The emergency is on-going, and it is necessary to extend the suspension of the statutes, orders, and rules identified by state agencies until this emergency subsides;

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.*, do hereby amend Executive Order 20-03 declaring an emergency in the State of Arkansas, extending the deadline of Executive Order 20-06, and order all state agencies to continue to identify provisions of any regulatory statute, agency order or rule that in any way prevents, hinders, or delays the agency's ability to render maximum assistance to the citizens of this state while they are adhering to guidelines to prohibit the spread of disease or seeking assistance from the state to obtain benefits or services related to health, education, employment, or any service rendered by the state in response to or to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Agencies shall continue to post any identified statutes, orders, and rules to their websites.

Once posted by the agency, those identified statutes, orders, and rules are hereby suspended for the duration of this emergency.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 13th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2020.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor