

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: For all people, a sound quality of life depends on our overall health and well-being – including the function of our five senses – and as sight is especially precious, Arkansans join to support causes that raise awareness of children’s health care with regard to their vision and that serve to remind parents and guardians to include regular eye examinations as part of a child’s routine health care; and

WHEREAS: As children across Arkansas are preparing for the start of another school year, however, many of them will begin their studies with undiagnosed and untreated vision problems; and

WHEREAS: Research shows that vision disorders are the number-one disabling condition of children, and that one of every four children is at risk for having vision problems that cause difficulty and frustration in school; and

WHEREAS: Sight is perhaps the sense we all rely on most and, for children, good vision helps them perform better not only in school where they read, write, and work on computers, but in other aspects of their daily lives as well, from crossing the street, to taking notes at school, to playing in the schoolyard, and as children grow, sight enhances their overall life experiences and improves their ability to interact with people and the world outside; and

WHEREAS: Reading is one of the most powerful skills that a child can learn, as it influences success in school and improves the overall quality of life; and

WHEREAS: Parents, educators, school nurses, and all concerned adults are reminded to address external factors that cause damage to children’s vision and to take steps to diminish the harmful effects that untreated vision problems can have on a child’s ability to read and learn;

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 August 2009, as

CHILDREN’S VISION AND LEARNING MONTH

across the State of Arkansas, and I encourage all Arkansans to join in supporting the worthy goals of this month-long observance by focusing on children’s eye care, by taking them for regular examinations, and attending to their visual needs.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 22nd day of June, in the year of our Lord 2009.





MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR