

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME -- GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, pain is one of our nation's most serious health problems; and

WHEREAS, more than 75 million Americans live with chronic pain caused by various diseases or disorders and more than 25 million Americans suffer with acute pain each year; and

WHEREAS, while, medical knowledge and technology exist to relieve or greatly ease pain, most pain goes untreated, under treated, or improperly treated; and

WHEREAS, the majority of health care professionals are still unaware of how to effectively treat pain and most people with pain, including those at the end of life, get little or no relief; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, pain costs more than \$100 billion annually in lost workdays, medical expenses, and other benefit costs; and

WHEREAS, many citizens, especially the elderly, minorities, urban and rural poor, are unable to get treatment helping them to manage their pain due to high health care costs; and

WHEREAS, untreated pain may potentially rob Arkansans of their quality of life - affecting their physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being; and

WHEREAS, people who suffer from pain are too often stigmatized, marginalized, and/or often not informed about their right to effective pain assessment and management; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Pain Initiative is a growing organization comprised of pain sufferers, physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, chaplains, therapists, civil leaders, non-profit organizations and health care businesses whose mission is to improve the quality of life for people in Arkansas experiencing pain; and

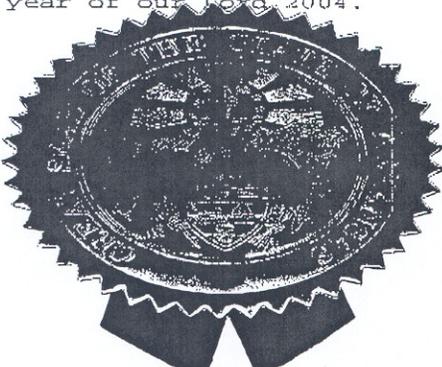
WHEREAS, the Arkansas Pain Initiative seeks to provide practical information for people with pain and pain issues, inform health care professionals about pain management, develop a pain resource center, and serve as an advocate for people experiencing pain;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Huckabee, acting under the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 2004, as

PAIN AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Arkansas and I respectfully request that all citizens unite to improve the quality of life for people in Arkansas suffering from pain.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 4th day of August, in the year of our Lord 2004.



*Mike Huckabee*  
MIKE HUCKABEE, GOVERNOR

*Charlie Daniels*  
CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE