

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: An estimated 54 million Americans have osteoporosis or low bone mass, and studies suggest that approximately 1 in 2 women and 1 in 4 men, age 50 and older, will break a bone due to osteoporosis;

WHEREAS: Approximately 1.8 million Medicare beneficiaries suffer approximately 2.1 million osteoporotic fractures a year and osteoporosis-related bone fractures are responsible for more hospitalizations than heart attacks, strokes, or breast cancer;

WHEREAS: The total annual cost for osteoporotic fractures among Medicare beneficiaries was \$57 billion in 2018 and is expected to grow to over \$95 billion in 2040 without reforms;

WHEREAS: In Arkansas, over 18,000 Medicare beneficiaries suffered over 21,200 osteoporotic fractures in 2016;

WHEREAS: Osteoporosis and the broken bones it can cause are not part of normal aging. Building strong bones begins in childhood and is essential to the prevention of osteoporosis. Care for our bones is important throughout our lives, but we reach our peak bone mass by early adulthood;

WHEREAS: Optimum bone health and prevention of osteoporosis can be maximized by a balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D, weight-bearing and muscle-strengthening exercise, and a healthy lifestyle with no smoking or excessive alcohol intake;

WHEREAS: Osteoporosis is often called a silent disease because one can't feel bones weakening. Breaking a bone is often the first sign of osteoporosis. Timely bone health screening, diagnosis, and treatment can help prevent fractures leading to hospitalization and nursing home stays;

WHEREAS: Cost effective post-fracture care, which improves care coordination, has been demonstrated to reduce the number of subsequent or repeat fractures, yet is not widely available or properly incentivized by Medicare; and,

WHEREAS: It is crucial that we raise awareness about bone health and osteoporosis among the public, health professionals and policy makers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, 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 May 2025, as

"OSTEOPOROSIS AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH"

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 5th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2025.



Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Governor



Attest.


Cole Jester, Secretary of State