

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME - GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Usher syndrome is a rare autosomal recessive genetic condition caused by mutations in multiple genes, leading to a combination of hearing loss, progressive vision loss caused by Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP), and balance impairment, making it the leading genetic cause of combined deafness and blindness;

WHEREAS: It is estimated that approximately 400,000 people worldwide live with Usher syndrome, with prevalence estimates ranging from 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 30,000 individuals, and additional local impact estimates may be included to reflect the affected population in this state or community;

WHEREAS: Usher syndrome affects three major sensory systems, hearing, vision, and balance, with vision loss results from RP, progressing from night blindness to tunnel vision as retinal cells deteriorate and vestibular dysfunction may cause severe balance issues; and

WHEREAS: Limited public awareness often leads to delayed diagnosis, misdiagnosis, reduced access to essential services, employment challenges, and impacts on daily living and mental health and the global Usher syndrome community unites annually on the third Saturday of September to increase awareness, support affected individuals, encourage timely diagnosis and access to resources.

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 the 19th of September 2026, as

“USHER SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY”

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 8th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2026.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sarah Sanders", written over a horizontal line.

Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cole Jester", written over a horizontal line.

Cole Jester, Secretary of State