GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions, related to end of life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, in Arizona, the Act provides the specifics of our advance directives law and offers a model form for citizen use; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that only about 20 percent of people in Arizona have executed an advance directive. Moreover, it is estimated that less than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients have an advance directive; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that a significant reason for these low percentages is that there is both a lack of awareness and considerable confusion in the public about advance directives; and

WHEREAS, one of the principal goals of Healthcare Decision Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of Arizona citizens with advance directives; and

WHEREAS, various medical, nursing, legal, and senior care organizations throughout Arizona have endorsed this event and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives; and

WHEREAS, as a result of April 16, 2016, being recognized as Healthcare Decisions Day in Arizona, more citizens will have conversations about their health care decisions, more citizens will execute advance directives to make their wishes known, and fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2016 as

HEALTHCARE DECISION DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

Douglas A. Ducey

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this thirteenth day of April in the year Two Thousand and Sixteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Fortieth.

ATTEST:

Michele Reagan

SECRETARY OF STATE