STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

***WHEREAS**, protecting adults and those with disabilities is an important undertaking conducted admirably by the Illinois Department on Aging, its newly created Office of Adult Protective Services, and providers throughout the state; and,*

***WHEREAS**, in 2015, the Department responded to nearly 15,000 reports of abuse of adults age 60 and older, and persons ages 18-59 with a disability, though the crisis remains vastly under-identified and under-reported; and,*

***WHEREAS**, abuse may take many forms, including financial exploitation, emotional abuse, passive neglect, physical abuse, willful deprivation, confinement, and sexual abuse, and these often occur in tandem; and,*

***WHEREAS**, victims are often abused by family members or other relatives; and,*

***WHEREAS**, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of any individual is an affront to human rights in Illinois and around the world; and,*

***WHEREAS**, the Adult Protective Services Act is a law created in Illinois to help this vulnerable population by stopping abuse and putting protective barriers and services in place to achieve safety; and,*

***WHEREAS**, it is important for all Americans and all Illinoisans to learn to recognize and report any signs of mistreatment, and redouble our efforts to build communities that safeguard our elders and persons with disabilities; and,*

***WHEREAS**, suspected abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of an eligible adult should be reported to the statewide 24-hour Abuse Hotline at 866-800-1409; and,*

***WHEREAS**, abuse of adults is a worldwide problem. Elder Abuse Awareness Day began 11 years ago at the United Nations by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization;*

***THEREFORE**, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim June 15, 2016, as **ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY** in Illinois.*

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield, this NINTH *day of* JUNE*, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and* SIXTEEN*, and of the State of Illinois, one hundred and* NINETY-EIGHTH*.*

SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS · AUG. 26TH 1818

Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR