



WHEREAS, thanks to thousands of adoptive parents across the state, 15,404 children have found permanent homes during the last decade, including 1,818 children in the last year alone; and,

WHEREAS, all children need and deserve the love, nurturing, and sense of security that can only come from being part of a loving, permanent family; and,

WHEREAS, adoption provides a unique joy and a special opportunity for people, whether they are already parents, married, in a civil union, single, or divorced, to open their hearts and their homes for the rest of their lives to children; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and its non-profit partners strive to reunite children with their birth families, but when that simply is not possible, they are equally committed to ensuring every child has the safe, loving family they need and deserve to reach their fullest potential; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois has made great strides in recent years in strengthening and improving the child welfare system by reducing the number of children in temporary substitute care, establishing a Bill of Rights for both birth parents and adoptive parents, and strengthening licensing requirements for adoption agencies to prevent the exploitation of birth parents, adoptive parents, and children; and,

WHEREAS, there are children of all ages, backgrounds, and needs awaiting adoption across the state;

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim November 2017 as **ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois, and encourage all Illinoisans to express their gratitude to the thousands of families across the state that have opened their homes and their hearts to children.*

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 TWENTY-SECOND *day of* SEPTEMBER, *in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
SEVENTEEN, *and of the State of Illinois,*
one hundred and NINETY-NINTH.

Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR