

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, drowning is the leading cause of accidental death for children aged one through four, accounting for nearly one-third of all accidental deaths of toddlers and pre-school children; and,

WHEREAS, drowning is the second leading cause of death for children ages one through 14 and claims the life of an average of two children per day in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, child drowning can occur in seconds in pools, bathtubs, hot tubs, decorative garden ponds, and even buckets that contain as little as two inches of water; and,

WHEREAS, 24 Illinois children lost their lives to accidental drowning in 2014, including 13 in swimming pools, four in ponds, three in lakes, two in bathtubs, one in a river, and one in a bucket; and,

WHEREAS, for every child that drowns, five more are victims of near-drowning that require emergency medical care, often leading to hospitalization and causing long-term brain damage that can include memory loss, learning disabilities, and permanent loss of basic functioning that results in a permanent vegetative state; and,

WHEREAS, inadequate supervision of children, which includes neglect that results in drowning, is the third-leading cause of all child deaths indicated by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services; and,

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize that constant adult supervision is needed when children are near or in water; and,

WHEREAS, the use of floatation devices and inflatable toys cannot replace parental supervision because such devices can suddenly shift position, lose air, or slip out from underneath, leaving the child in a dangerous situation; and,

WHEREAS, adults need to practice "Reach Supervision" by staying within an arm's length of young children; and,

WHEREAS, the state's "Get Water Wise...Supervise!" campaign urges the public to prevent childhood drowning and near-drowning by providing adult supervision whenever children are near or in water; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Illinois Child Death Review Team and other community partners recognize that childhood drowning is preventable if proper adult supervision is provided; and,

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2015 as **CHILDHOOD DROWNING PREVENTION MONTH** in Illinois, and encourage all parents and caregivers to learn and practice proven child water safety precautions, ensuring the safety of all Illinois 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 EIGHTH day of MAY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
FIFTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
one hundred and NINETY-SEVENTH.

Desse White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner
GOVERNOR