



WHEREAS, each year more than 4,000 children who have been abused or neglected cannot remain with their families safely; these children need and deserve the temporary safe haven of a family home where they can be protected, nurtured, and loved; and,

WHEREAS, without volunteer foster families, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services would not be able to fulfill its mission to provide for the well-being of the nearly 15,000 children currently in its care; and,

WHEREAS, the department and its non-profit partners provide a wide range of support to assist foster families to provide a child's basic physical needs and to ensure their educational, emotional, and social well-being, none of which can be achieved without the dedication of foster families; and,

WHEREAS, foster families answer a noble calling to devote their time and energy to children to reunite families when possible, support other permanency options, and create opportunities for a successful launch to adulthood; and,

WHEREAS, foster families provide children with the one thing they need the most, love, which cannot come from a government or nonprofit agency, but only from the heart of another human being; and,

WHEREAS, foster parents change lives in many ways, and they deserve the utmost respect and gratitude for the lasting impact they have in the life of a child, in their communities, and on the future prosperity of this state;

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2017 as **FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION MONTH** in Illinois, extending thanks on behalf of the people of Illinois to the thousands of Illinois foster families, and encouraging all to consider joining them in their noble service to children, communities, and our state.*

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 _____ MARCH _____, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
_____ SEVENTEEN _____, and of the State of Illinois,
one hundred and _____ NINETY-NINTH _____.



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SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR