WHEREAS, Illinois celebrates Latino communities during Hispanic Heritage Month and Support Latino Business Day, and throughout the year recognizes their contributions to the fabric of our communities; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois is a state of ingenuity and acceptance that is home to vibrant Latino communities whose residents and businesses have made immense contributions to our state and have helped to preserve and enhance a culture of diversity and strength; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois recognizes the contributions that nearly 116,000 Latino businesses make to our communities and economy each year, with the Illinois Latino GDP totaling $100.1 billion; and,

WHEREAS, Latino-owned businesses and other minority-owned firms in Illinois were disproportionately impacted during the COVID-19 global pandemic, prompting targeted support through emergency relief programs open to all business owners regardless of status; and,

WHEREAS, Latino-owned businesses continue to play a prominent role in our economy, with the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce estimating that Hispanic-owned businesses contribute over $700 billion to the American economy every year; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois is proud to be home to diverse Latino communities that make our state stronger and inclusive;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 14, 2022, as Support Latino Business Day and September 15 - October 15, 2022, as Hispanic Heritage Month from in Illinois, and encourage Illinois residents to celebrate the rich history and cultures of the Latino Community by supporting Latino Businesses in Illinois during this month and throughout the year.

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 TWELFTH day of SEPTEMBER, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and TWENTY-TWO, and of the State of Illinois, two hundred and FOURTH.