

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and throughout the country's history, citizens have stepped up to meet our challenges by volunteering in their communities; and,

WHEREAS, since its creation in 1994, the AmeriCorps national service program has proven to be a highly effective way to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in meeting a wide range of community needs and promotes the ethic of service and volunteering; and,

WHEREAS, each year AmeriCorps programs, including AmeriCorps*State and National, AmeriCorps*VISTA and AmeriCorps*NCCC, provide opportunities for 80,000 citizens across the nation, including more than 2,800 in Illinois, to give back in an intensive way to our communities, our state, and our country; and,

WHEREAS, more than 900,000 men and women across the nation, including more than 35,000 from Illinois, have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done" since 1994; and,

WHEREAS, those AmeriCorps Members have served a total of 1.2 billion hours nationwide, including more than 48 million served by residents from Illinois; which equates to almost \$1.2 billion in impact for Illinois, by helping improve the lives of our state's most vulnerable citizens, strengthening our educational system, protecting our environment, and contributing to our public safety; and,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members serve with more than 14,000 nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based community groups nationwide, including more than 800 in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, last year AmeriCorps members in Illinois recruited more than 32,000 volunteers, tutored or mentored more than 425,000 disadvantaged children, provided more than 2.5 million hours of service valued at \$101 million, and helped to leverage more than \$14 million in cash and in-kind resources; and,

WHEREAS, residents of Illinois have earned more than \$111 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to help pay for college or pay back student loans since 1994; and,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service end, remain engaged in our communities as volunteers, teachers, public servants, and nonprofit leaders in disproportionately high levels; and,

WHEREAS, the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service and the federal Corporation for National and Community Service play a key role in determining where AmeriCorps resources should be directed to meet state and local needs; and,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps Week, March 5-12, 2016, is an opportune time for the people of Illinois to salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their service, thank AmeriCorps' community partners, and bring more Americans into service;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 5-12, 2016, as **AMERICORPS WEEK IN ILLINOIS**, and urge citizens to thank AmeriCorps members and alumni for their service and to find ways to give back to their communities at www.Serve.Illinois.gov.

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 FOURTH *day of* MARCH *, in*

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

SIXTEEN *, and of the State of Illinois,*

one hundred and NINETY-EIGHTH *.*



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner
GOVERNOR