

# STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, every day in Illinois, mentors help youth in communities across the state face the challenges of growing into adulthood; and,*

*WHEREAS, research shows that young people matched with a caring adult through a quality mentoring program are 52 percent less likely to skip school, 46 percent less likely to use illegal drugs, 27 percent less likely to start drinking, and are more likely to have positive relationships with adults and to make positive plans for their future; and,*

*WHEREAS, more than 400 active mentoring organizations currently operate in Illinois, and tens of thousands of youth in our state already have the benefit of caring supportive volunteer mentors; and,*

*WHEREAS, the Illinois Mentoring Partnership, the Serve Illinois Commission, and the Illinois Senior Corps branch of National Service are all committed to improving the lives of children through various mentorship resources and programs; and,*

*WHEREAS, fewer than 3 percent of youth in Illinois are currently served in a mentoring program, and many children in Illinois desperately need the support of a quality mentor; and,*

*WHEREAS, mentors can commit as little as one hour a week and still make a significant positive impact on the outcome of a child's life; and,*

*WHEREAS, the month of January is celebrated as Mentoring Month across the nation in an effort to decrease the number of youth who do not have a trusted mentor in their lives;*

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim January 2017 as **MENTORING MONTH** in Illinois, and urge all Illinoisans to recognize the important work that mentors do and support these mentors in their efforts to help guide the next generation.*

*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 SEVENTEENTH day of NOVEMBER, in*  
*the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and*  
*SIXTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,*  
*one hundred and NINETY-EIGHT.*

*Deese White*

SECRETARY OF STATE

*Bruce Rauner*

GOVERNOR