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 futures; and,

WHEREAS, more than 500 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, MENTOR Illinois, the Serve Illinois Commission, AmeriCorps, and Senior Corps are all committed to improving the lives of children through various mentorship resources and programs; and,

WHEREAS, fewer than five percent of youth facing one or more risk factors 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 2018 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 TWENTY-EIGHTH day of NOVEMBER, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and SEVENTEEN, and of the State of Illinois, one hundred and NINETY-NINTH.

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE

[Signature]
GOVERNOR