

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Illinois' four major racial and ethnic minority groups account for approximately 37 percent of the state's population; and,

WHEREAS, significant health disparities exist among minority groups, including differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden of preventable health conditions and diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, HIV/AIDS, infant mortality, and immunizations; and,

WHEREAS, National Minority Health Month is an inclusive initiative addressing health needs of African American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American people and other minorities with the aim of strengthening the capacities of local communities to eliminate the disproportionate burden of premature death and preventable illness in minority populations through prevention, early detection, and control of disease complications; and,

WHEREAS, April has been observed across the country as National Minority Health Month; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of the Center for Minority Health Services at the Illinois Department of Public Health is to improve the health and well-being of Illinois' minority populations through the development of health polices and culturally and linguistically appropriate programs to eliminate health disparities; and,

WHEREAS, even though improvements have been made in the health status of most Illinoisans during the past decade, the overall health status of the state's minority population is poor and their death rate for preventable disease greatly exceeds that of other residents; and,

WHEREAS, public awareness and culturally appropriate health education, disease prevention, and health care services are essential to improving the health of racial and ethnic minorities; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with this year's National Minority Health Month theme, "**Accelerating Health Equity for the Nation**," the Illinois Department of Public Health's Center for Minority Health Services is focused on heightening awareness, by building partnerships and sharing prevention strategies and appropriate health information in an effort to eliminate health disparities for all minorities;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby recognize April 2016, as **MINORITY HEALTH MONTH** in Illinois.

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-SECOND day of MARCH, in
 the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
SIXTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
 one hundred and NINETY-EIGHTH.



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SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR