



WHEREAS, the United States has become increasingly diverse in the last century with approximately 36 percent of the population belonging to a minority racial or ethnic group; and,

WHEREAS, although health indicators such as life expectancy and infant mortality have improved for most Americans, some minorities experience a disproportionate burden of preventable disease, death, and disability compared with non-minorities; and,

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

WHEREAS, celebrated every year in April, National Minority Health Month is an effort to raise awareness about health disparities that continue to affect racial and ethnic minority populations; 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 policies and culturally and linguistically appropriate programs to eliminate health disparities; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with this year's National Minority Health Month theme, "Bridging Health Equity Across Communities," the Illinois Department of Public Health's Center for Minority Health Services will continue to bridge efforts and awareness across the state;

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2017 as **NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH** in Illinois, in support of the Center for Minority Health's efforts to help eliminate health disparities, accelerate health equity, and make the state of Illinois a stronger and healthier state.*

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 _____ Tenth _____ day of _____ MARCH _____, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
_____ SEVENTEEN _____, and of the State of Illinois,
one hundred and _____ NINETY-NINTH _____.



Dorise White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR