STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, black communities represent approximately 14 percent of the United States population and have the most severe burden of HIV infections compared to all other racial and ethnic groups in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, nearly 50 percent of individuals diagnosed with HIV between 2014 and 2018 were black, while 22 percent were white and 21 percent were Latino; and,

WHEREAS, the rate of new HIV infection among black Illinoisans was nearly three times that of Latino and 10 times that of white residents; and,

WHEREAS, viral suppression rates among black individuals are lower compared to all other racial and ethnic groups, with 52.9 percent of black residents virally suppressed in 2018, compared to 59.3 percent of Hispanic and 60.3 percent of white ones; and,

WHEREAS, National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a nationwide observance to call attention to the threat and devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on these communities and to raise awareness among all black Americans to get educated, tested, treated, and involved with their local HIV/AIDS community efforts; and,

WHEREAS, community involvement in promoting awareness and HIV testing is crucial to reducing stigma and identifying and treating undiagnosed individuals who are unaware of their infection;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby recognize February 7th, as **National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** in Illinois and call this observance to the attention of all our residents.

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* JANUARY *, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and* TWENTY *, and of the State of Illinois, two hundred and* SECOND *.*

SECRETARY OF STATE

GOVERNOR