



WHEREAS, for more than 30 years, Illinois' school-based and school-linked health centers (SBHCs) have provided comprehensive physical and mental health care, offering primary medical care, mental/behavioral health care, dental/oral health care, health education and promotion, substance abuse counseling, case management, and nutrition education to young people on or near school grounds; and,

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2017, Illinois schools hosted 64 school-based and school-linked health centers, serving 296 schools and school districts, which provided 123,015 medical, mental health, and preventive visits to 44,011 children and adolescents; and,

WHEREAS, school-based health centers are the link between primary/preventive health care and education, targeting hard-to-reach populations, while providing crucial services such as mental health care and high-risk behavior screenings; and,

WHEREAS, research has shown that school health centers contribute to improved rates of school attendance, enhanced scores on standardized tests, less absenteeism due to illness, higher compliance with required immunizations and physical exams, decreased smoking of tobacco and marijuana, fewer hospitalizations and emergency room visits, lower school drop-out rates, and a decline in teen pregnancy; and,

WHEREAS, School-Based Health Care Awareness Month is a time to acknowledge the commitment and passion that school-based health center staff show for Illinois children and youth, and to recognize the critical role school-based health centers play in increasing health care access and improving the health and well-being of all Illinois children;

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim February 2018 as **SCHOOL HEALTH CENTER AWARENESS MONTH** in Illinois to raise awareness about how school-based health centers are revolutionizing the way children and adolescents access health care services.*

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
EIGHTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundredth.

Dorise White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR