

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, there are more than 16,900 youth in care in Illinois' foster care system; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and its private agency partners support the efforts of the Regional and Statewide Youth Advisory Board in giving youth in care a voice; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois is committed to youth empowerment, development, leadership, and success, thus building skills that prepare youth for public engagement; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois child welfare agencies are uniting to recognize the impact of youth voices and create opportunities that give youth purpose and allow them to feel supported; and,

WHEREAS, youth in care have the capacity and knowledge to educate others about their experiences and have their voices matter in the decisions that will ultimately impact their lives; and,

WHEREAS, youth in care across Illinois deserve to have their voices heard, valued, and used as a catalyst for strengthening programs and improving outcomes for current and former youth in care; and,

WHEREAS, in Illinois, amplifying youth voice is a critical part of valuing and prioritizing young adults - all youth in care have the right to speak freely and share their thoughts and ideas in a safe and judgment-free space; and,

WHEREAS, Foster Youth Voice Month is an opportunity to elevate youth voice and to support the immediate needs of youth in care and for generations to come;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 2025 as Foster Youth Voice 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 SEVENTEENTH day of SEPTEMBER, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-FIVE, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and SIXTH.



Alexi Giannouch
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR