STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *thanks to thousands of adoptive parents across the state, 19,294 children have found permanent homes over the last decade, including 2,328 children in the last year alone; and,*

WHEREAS, *all children need and deserve the love, nurturing, and sense of security that can only come from being a part of a loving, permanent family; and,*

WHEREAS, *adoption provides a unique joy and a special opportunity for individuals, whether they are already parents, married, in a civil union, single or divorced, to open their hearts and their homes for the rest of their lives to children; and,*

WHEREAS, *the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and its nonprofit partners strive to reunite children with their birth families, but when that simply is not possible, they are equally committed to ensuring every child has the safe, loving family they deserve and need to reach their fullest potential; and,*

WHEREAS, *Illinois has made great strides in recent years in strengthening and improving the child welfare system: reducing the number of children in temporary substitute care from 52,000 to 15,000, establishing a Bill of Rights for both birth parents and adoptive parents, and strengthening licensing requirements for adoption agencies to prevent the exploitation of birth parents, adoptive parents, and children; and,*

WHEREAS, *we are committed to improving the child welfare system even further, especially by reducing the length of time children remain in temporary foster care; and,*

WHEREAS, *currently there are 3,399 youth in care with a permanency goal of adoption in Illinois, of all ages, backgrounds, and needs;*

THEREFORE, *I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim November 2026 as* ***Adoption Awareness Month*** *in Illinois, and encourage all Illinoisans to express their gratitude to the thousands of families across the state that have opened their homes and their hearts to children, and encourage others to consider joining them in making a life-changing difference for children.*

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* OCTOBER*, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and* TWENTY-SIX*, and of the State of Illinois, two hundred and* SEVENTH*.*

SECRETARY OF STATE

GOVERNOR