



WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and throughout the country's history, individuals have stepped up to meet our challenges by volunteering in their communities; and,

WHEREAS, since its creation in 1994, the AmeriCorps national service program has proven to be a highly effective way to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in meeting a wide range of community needs and promotes the ethic of service and volunteering; and,

*WHEREAS, each year AmeriCorps programs, including AmeriCorps*State and National, AmeriCorps*VISTA and AmeriCorps*NCCC, provide opportunities for nearly 75,000 citizens across the nation, including more than 2,400 in Illinois, to give back in an intensive way to our communities, our state, and our country; and,*

WHEREAS, more than 1,000,000 men and women across the nation, including more than 41,000 from Illinois, have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done" since 1994; and,

WHEREAS, those AmeriCorps Members have served a total of 1.4 billion hours nationwide, including more than 59 million served by residents from Illinois; which equates to over \$1.4 billion in impact for Illinois, by helping improve the lives of our state's most vulnerable citizens, strengthening our educational system, protecting our environment, and contributing to our public safety; and,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members serve with more than 21,000 nonprofit, community, educational, and faith-based community groups nationwide; including more than 600 in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, last year AmeriCorps Members in Illinois recruited over 18,000 volunteers, served over 366,000 Illinoisans, provided more than 1.8 million hours of service valued at nearly \$47 million, and helped to leverage more than \$16.4 million in cash and in-kind resources; and,

WHEREAS, residents of Illinois have earned more than \$140 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to help pay for college or pay back student loans since 1994; and,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members, after their terms of service end, remain engaged in our communities as volunteers, teachers, public servants, and nonprofit leaders in disproportionately high levels; and,

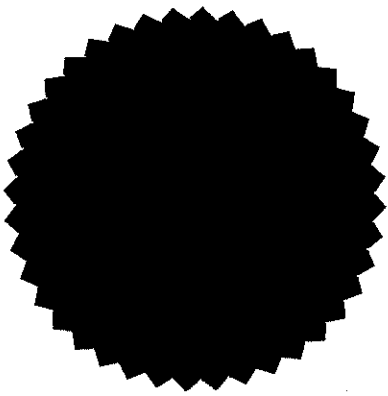
WHEREAS, the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service and the federal Corporation for National and Community Service play a key role in determining where AmeriCorps resources should be directed to meet state and local needs; and,

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps Week, March 10-16, 2019, is an opportune time for the people of Illinois to salute AmeriCorps members and alums for their service; thank AmeriCorps' community partners; and bring more Americans into service;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 10-16, 2019 as AMERICORPS WEEK in Illinois, and urge citizens to thank AmeriCorps Members and alumni for their service and to find ways to give back to their communities at www.Serve.Illinois.gov.

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 FIFTH *day of* MARCH *, in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
NINETEEN *, and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and FIRST *.*



Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR