



WHEREAS, the State of Illinois recognizes that arts education, including dance, drama, music, and visual arts, is an essential part of basic education for all students, providing a balanced education that aids in developing full potential; and,

WHEREAS, the arts enrich the lives of children in Illinois and throughout the country by developing creative ability, self-expression, self-reflection, cognitive skills, discipline, a heightened appreciation of beauty, and cross-cultural understanding; and,

WHEREAS, many national and state professional education associations hold celebrations in the month of March, focused on students' participation in the arts; and,

WHEREAS, these celebrations give Illinois schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of the arts for all students, to foster cross-cultural understanding, to recognize the state's outstanding young artists, to focus on careers in the arts available to Illinois students, and to enhance public support for this important part of their curriculum; and,

WHEREAS, the fine arts are a significant component of students' educational development, teaching them the language and production of the arts, and helping them understand the role of the arts in civilizations, both past and present;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 14-20, 2016, as **ILLINOIS ARTS EDUCATION WEEK** and encourage all citizens to celebrate the arts with meaningful student activities and programs that demonstrate learning and understanding in the visual and performing arts.

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 FOURTH *day of* MARCH *, in*

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and

SIXTEEN *, and of the State of Illinois,*

one hundred and NINETY-EIGHTH *.*



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SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR