

WHEREAS, National Minority Health Month is an inclusive initiative addressing health needs of African American, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American people and other minorities with the aim of strengthening the capacities of local communities to eliminate the disproportionate burden of premature death and preventable illness in minority populations through prevention, early detection, and control of disease complications; and

WHEREAS, April has been observed across the country as National Minority Health Month; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Center for Minority Health Services at the Illinois Department of Public Health is to improve the health and well being of Illinois' racial minority populations through the development of health policies and culturally and linguistically appropriate programs that will eliminate health disparities ; and

WHERE AS, Illinois' four major racial and ethnic minority groups account for approximately 37 percent of the state's population; and

WHEREAS, significant health disparities, including differences in the incidence, prevalence, mortality, and burden, exist among minority groups for preventable health conditions and diseases like diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, HIV/AIDS, infant mortality, and immunizations; and

WHEREAS, even though improvements have been made in the health status of most Illinoisans during the past decade, the overall health status of the state's minority population is poor and their death rate for preventable disease greatly exceeds that of other residents; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and culturally appropriate health education, disease prevention, and health care services are essential to improving the health of racial and ethnic minorities; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with this year's National Minority Health Month theme **30 years of Advancing Health Equity - The Heckler Report: A Force for ending health disparities in America**, the Illinois Department of Public Health, Center for Minority Health Services is focused on heightening awareness, by building partnerships and sharing prevention strategies and appropriate health information in an effort to eliminate health disparities for all minorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce V. Rauner, do hereby recognize April 2015, as **MINORITY HEALTH MONTH** in the **Great State of ILLINOIS** and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.