WHEREAS, school social workers in the State of Illinois and across the nation serve as vital members of the educational team, playing a central role in creating a positive school environment, and facilitate partnerships among a student’s home, school, and community to ensure academic success; and,

WHEREAS, school social workers are skilled in providing services to students who face serious challenges to school success, including poverty, disability, discrimination, abuse, addiction, bullying, the divorce of parents, the loss of a loved one, and other barriers to learning; and,

WHEREAS, there is a growing need for local school districts and other educational agencies to address students’ emotional, physical, and environmental needs so they can achieve academic success; and,

WHEREAS, school social workers have expertise in many areas such as mental health intervention, human growth and behavior, how family dynamics affect student achievement, child abuse and neglect, chemical health, and community resources; and,

WHEREAS, the celebration of “School Social Work Week” during the week of March 5-11, 2017, highlights the vital role school social workers play in the lives of students and families in the United States;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 5-11, 2017, as SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK WEEK in Illinois, in recognition of the contributions social workers make in the lives of students.

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 THIRTIETH day of JANUARY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
SEVENTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
one hundred and NINETY-NINTH.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE