



WHEREAS, the State of Illinois recognizes the role of equines in the economy, history, and character of Illinois, which can be traced back to when our forefathers used horses to settle the prairie and build our great state, transport people and goods, clear and till the land, harvest and thresh grains, herd cattle, power mills, pull barges, serve in the military, fight fires, and deliver mail; and,

WHEREAS, the horses of today are vital in assisting in police crowd control, providing therapeutic aid to veterans and disabled persons, continuing to work our farms, and are used for pleasure riding and race at Arlington Park, Hawthorne, and Fairmont Park tracks in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, there are equine properties of all sizes in Illinois, including breeding farms, boarding and training facilities, riding schools, small acreage farmettes, showgrounds, and equine-based therapy centers; and,

WHEREAS, equine operations encompass thousands of acres, making for a significant part of our land kept in open space, pasture, and forestland; and,

WHEREAS, horses are the source of Illinois jobs and income for thousands of residents, both directly and indirectly, including services such as veterinarians, trainers, farriers, chiropractors, grooms, stable hands, entertainers, carriage/sleigh/hay wagon drivers, jockeys, and sellers of goods such as lumber, hay, grain, grass seed, bedding, tack, trucks, horse trailers, and more; and,

WHEREAS, the Horsemen's Council of Illinois helps promote and educate the public about the importance of horses in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, there are many significant benefits brought to Illinois agriculture, tourism, and quality of life through the equine industry;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim March 5, 2017, as **ILLINOIS DAY OF THE HORSE**, and urge our citizens to recognize the importance of horses to our security, economy, recreation, and heritage, and to lend their enthusiastic support to Illinois' equine industry.

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 FEBRUARY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
SEVENTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
NINETY-NINTH
one hundred and _____.



Bruce Rauner

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR