



**WHEREAS**, Illinois is celebrating its diverse Latino communities in observation of Hispanic Heritage Month and year-round by recognizing Support Latino Business Day - a national call to action that officially acknowledges and encourages support for Latino-owned businesses; and,

**WHEREAS**, Illinois is a state of ingenuity and acceptance that is home to vibrant Latino communities whose residents and businesses have made immense contributions to the state and helped to preserve and enhance a culture of diversity and strength - in 2021, the Illinois Latino Gross Domestic Income was \$92.6 billion; and,

**WHEREAS**, Illinois recognizes the unique contribution that an estimated 143,000 Latino businesses make in our communities and how they are integral to the prosperity of our economy - in 2024, the State of Illinois held the second annual Latin@ Economic Summit to continue supporting and uplifting Latino-owned businesses in Illinois; and,

**WHEREAS**, Hispanic workers continue to serve as an engine of economic growth - the total economic output, or GDP, of Hispanic Americans in 2021 is estimated to be well over \$3.2 trillion, up from \$2.8 trillion in 2020, and Hispanic Americans alone accounted for more than half of all the population growth in the United States between 2010 and 2021; and,

**WHEREAS**, these businesses and other minority-owned firms in Illinois continue to make progress toward a full recovery from the COVID-19 global pandemic - Illinois continues to prioritize emergency relief programs such as the Back to Business programs, small business grants for Latino businesses, and other business assistance programs like the Advantage Illinois - State Small Business Credit Initiative Loan and Loan Guarantee Program and investments in worker training to fill essential jobs across all sectors; and,

**WHEREAS**, despite hardship, Latino residents and businesses continue to see growth and play a prominent role in our economy, with the U.S. Senate Joint Economic Committee estimating that Hispanic-owned businesses contribute over \$800 billion to the American economy every year; and,

**WHEREAS**, Illinois celebrates the significant cultural and economic contributions Latino communities and Latino-owned businesses make, the jobs they help create, and the positive impact they bring to communities across our state and beyond;

**THEREFORE**, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 14, 2024, as **Support Latino Business Day** and September 15 through October 15, 2024, as **Hispanic Heritage Month** in Illinois and encourage Illinoisans to celebrate the rich history and cultures of the Latino community and support Latino Businesses in Illinois year-round.

*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* SIXTH *day of* SEPTEMBER, *in*  
*the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and*  
TWENTY-FOUR, *and of the State of Illinois,*  
*two hundred and* FIFTH.

*Alexi Giannouh*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*JB Pritzker*  
GOVERNOR