STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *we are regularly warned about growing levels of obesity, especially among children; and*

WHEREAS, *one way to tackle this problem is to encourage children to walk to school, and the issue is being highlighted during International Walk to School Month in October; and*

WHEREAS, *International Walk to School Month is a great opportunity for parents and caregivers to instill in their children the health benefits of walking to school; and*

WHEREAS, *in addition to reducing a child's chances of becoming overweight, walking helps them arrive at school more alert, as well as improves their fitness for physical activities; and*

WHEREAS, *walking with children to school also affords parents and caregivers a great opportunity to reinforce important safety lessons, including the identification of safe routes and how to cross a street safely:*

THEREFORE, I, Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 2007 as ***INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL MONTH*** *and October 3, 2007 as* ***INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY*** *in Illinois, and hope that parents and caregivers everywhere take the time to walk with their children to school and promote the importance of pedestrian safety and healthy habits.*

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-SEVENTH *day of* SEPTEMBER*, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and* SEVEN*, and of the State of Illinois the one hundred and* EIGHTY-NINTH

SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

AUG 26TH 1818

Jesse White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich

GOVERNOR