WHEREAS, student-related housing fires in Texas, Oregon, Illinois, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania, and other school across the country have tragically cut short the lives of some of the youth of our nation; and,

WHEREAS, since January 2000, at least 175 people, including students, parents and children have died in college-related fires; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 87 percent of these deaths have occurred in off-campus occupancies; and,

WHEREAS, many students across the nation live in off-campus occupancies; and,

WHEREAS, fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised or disabled by the occupants; and,

WHEREAS, it is recognized that automatic fire alarm systems and smoke alarms provide crucial early warning to occupants and the fire department of a fire so that appropriate action can be taken; and,

WHEREAS, many students are living in off-campus occupancies, Greek housing, and residence halls and may not be adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems or adequate smoke alarms; and,

WHEREAS, it is recognized that fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage; and,

WHEREAS, students are not routinely receiving effective or any fire safety messages throughout their college career or young adult life; and,

WHEREAS, it is vital to educate the future generation of our nation about the importance of fire safety behavior so that these behaviors become a top priority to ensure their safety during their college years and beyond; and,

WHEREAS, by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires can be significantly reduced;

THEREFORE, J B Pritzker, Governor the State of Illinois, proclaim September 2019 Campus Fire Safety Month in Illinois, and encourage schools and municipalities across Illinois to provide educational outreach programs to all students, not just during September, but throughout the school year; and encourage colleges, universities, and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on and off-campus student housing and take the necessary steps to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety outreach education, installation of fire suppression.

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-SIXTH day of AUGUST, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and NINETEEN, and of the State of Illinois, two hundred and FIRST.

Jesse W. White
SECRETARY OF STATE

J B Pritzker
GOVERNOR