

# STATE OF ILLINOIS



## Proclamation

WHEREAS, almost a million residents of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) heritage have strengthened Illinois through their leadership and resilience and make up the fastest-growing racial demographic in the state; and,

WHEREAS, AAPI individuals, families, communities, organizations, and businesses are an important part of our society in Illinois and have made essential contributions in fields such as our economy, education, healthcare, science, the arts, civic engagement, and public service; and,

WHEREAS, there are over 23,000 AAPI-owned businesses and more than 87,000 AAPI-solopreneurs in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, AAPI-owned businesses nationwide have been targeted disproportionately and suffered significant losses during the COVID-19 pandemic and as part of ongoing efforts to support minority communities and to address systemic and underlying challenges facing the AAPI community, the State of Illinois will continue to advance policies and programs centered around equitable access to opportunities and resources, including the position of AAPI Business Development Manager in the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, to expand targeted outreach and advocacy supporting AAPI-owned businesses; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois has demonstrated its commitment to building a business community that is equitable, business-friendly, and supports businesses and entrepreneurs in every corner of the state and acknowledges the extraordinary efforts and contributions of the AAPI community; and,

WHEREAS, generations of AAPI individuals have demonstrated resilience and determination in the face of adversity and we will continue to stand against those who look to eliminate the recognition, celebration, and acknowledgment of AAPI contributions;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month* in Illinois.

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-NINTH day of APRIL, in  
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and  
TWENTY-FIVE, and of the State of Illinois,  
two hundred and SIXTH.



*Alexi Giannoulias*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*JB Pritzker*  
GOVERNOR