



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the health and safety of all Virginians is important to the happiness, prosperity and well-being of our Commonwealth's families and communities; and

WHEREAS, every child in Virginia, regardless of physical, medical or emotional challenges, age or race, needs love, support, security and a place to call home; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 4,700 children in Virginia's foster care program and more than 800 children have the goal of adoption and are available for placement in an adoptive home; and

WHEREAS, these children can thrive, reach their full potential, and spread their wings when given the loving and firm foundation of a family with a desire to parent a child who would otherwise not have permanency in life; and

WHEREAS, in addition to adoption from foster care, it is appropriate to recognize those who have chosen other adoption options to build a family. It is important for every child who cannot be raised by a birth parent to find a permanent home. Children have better outcomes when they are raised in families; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Heart Galleries is the Commonwealth's resource that provides much needed exposure for children waiting to be adopted; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration of both public and private adoption agencies along with community agencies, religious organizations, businesses, Virginia's Adoption Champion Deborah J. Johnston, and others should be recognized for their commitment to the needs of the children throughout the Commonwealth;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize November 2015 as **ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Handwritten signature of Terence R. McAuliffe in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Governor

Handwritten signature of Jewell M. Taylor in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Secretary of the Commonwealth