



STATE OF NEBRASKA



Proclamation

WHEREAS,

The citizens of Nebraska stand firmly committed to quality afterschool and summer programs because they:

- Support youth development and promote academic achievement. National and local research shows afterschool and summer programs provide safe, challenging, engaging and fun learning experiences to help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, artistic and academic skills they need to succeed in school and in life;
- Support working families by ensuring that their children are safe and engaged in productive activities after the regular school day and school year ends;
- Support efforts to strengthen Nebraska communities by involving students, parents, community organizations, businesses, teachers and adult volunteers in the lives of young people, thereby promoting positive relationships among youth, schools, families and adults; and

WHEREAS,

"Lights on Afterschool," a national celebration of afterschool programs, will be held this year at locations around the country and across Nebraska on October 20, 2016. These events will showcase the importance of quality afterschool and summer programs in the lives of children, families and communities; and

WHEREAS,

More than 28 million children in the United States have parents who work outside of the home, and 15.1 million children have no supervised place to go afterschool. In Nebraska, it is estimated that over 114,000 youth are on their own during afterschool hours; and

WHEREAS,

Beyond School Bells, Nebraska's statewide afterschool network and an array of partners from across the state are working to promote greater community involvement in the development and sustainability of afterschool programs that play a vital role in helping provide all our children with all the opportunities they need to become successful citizens; and

WHEREAS,

Many afterschool programs in Nebraska and across the country face funding shortfalls that may require them to turn off their lights and close their doors to children who need these important services.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the week of October 16th, 2016 as

NEBRASKA LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL WEEK

in Nebraska, and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Twenty-seventh day of September, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Sixteen.



Attest:


Secretary of State


Governor