STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *according to the Illinois Department on Aging, between four and five percent of persons in the United States, aged sixty and older are subject to some form of mistreatment or abuse. This includes physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as financial exploitation, neglect, and abandonment; and*

WHEREAS, *Illinois has approximately two million citizens over the age of sixty. This means that there could be as many as 98,000 Illinois seniors currently suffering from some form of abuse; and*

WHEREAS, *it is important that we, as a state and as a country, work to create greater awareness of the prevalence and severity of elder abuse, in hopes of eradicating it from our society. Here in Illinois, there are several groups and organizations, such as the Illinois Department on Aging, the Illinois Elder Abuse Task Force, B*SAFE, and the Guardianship Reform Project, who work diligently each day toward that goal; and*

WHEREAS, *elder abuse is as problematic in society as abuse inflicted upon children and seniors. If we work together, it is also just as preventable:*

THEREFORE, I, Rod Blagojevich, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim July 2005 as ***ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH*** *in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to recognize this problem and join in working toward its solution.*

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 NINETEENTH *day of* NOVEMBER*, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and* FOUR*, and of the State of Illinois the one hundred and* EIGHTY-SIXTH

SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AUG. 26TH 1818

Jesse White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Rod Blagojevich
GOVERNOR