

# STATE OF NEBRASKA



## Proclamation

WHEREAS,

*According to the U.S. Census, about 56.7 million people 19 percent of the population in the United States have a disability; and*

WHEREAS,

*Many of these individuals with disabilities rely on federal benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income to foster their independence, maintain their health, support their employment, participate in their communities and enhance their quality of life; and*

WHEREAS,

*Before passage of the federal Stephen Beck, Jr., Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act in 2014, millions of individuals with disabilities were unable to save more than \$2,000 in assets without jeopardizing their eligibility for these critical federal benefits; and*

WHEREAS,

*Nebraska and 22 other states have established ABLE programs where individuals with disabilities can save money in tax-exempt ABLE accounts that do not count toward the individuals \$2,000 asset cap; and*

WHEREAS,

*In Nebraska, the savings program is known as the Enable Savings Program and is administered by the Nebraska State Treasurer's Office with program management provided by First National Bank of Omaha; and*

WHEREAS,

*Nebraska Enable Savings Program, the third program in the country to launch, is supporting the ABLE National Resource Centers nationwide campaign, #AbleToSave, to educate individuals with disabilities and their families, financial institutions and other stakeholders about ABLE potential positive impact on the lives of Americans with disabilities; and*

WHEREAS,

*The goal of the #AbleToSave campaign is to enhance awareness of ABLE accounts as a financial savings tool and to increase the number of ABLE accounts opened throughout the country, including Nebraska; and*

WHEREAS,

*The establishment of #AbleToSave Month for the month of August 2017 across Nebraska will encourage public and private community-based organizations to provide information and resources to residents of Nebraska about ABLE accounts.*

NOW, THEREFORE,

*I, Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the month of August as*

### ABLE TO SAVE MONTH

*in Nebraska, and I encourage our residents to work together to enhance awareness of and education about ABLE accounts.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Ninth day of August, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Seventeen.*

Attest:



Secretary of State

Governor