**Proclamation**

**Proclaiming the month of September as**

**“College Savings Month”**

**Whereas,** As the State of [state] is committed to competing in the global economy, our citizens must recognize the challenge ahead and provide their children with the education and skills that will enable them to compete successfully; and

**Whereas,** The rising cost of higher education has out-paced inflation and the growth in family income, all of which pose a serious threat to the ability of our citizens to ensure their children’s access to post-secondary education; and,

**Whereas,** The amount of student loan debt continues to rise to historic levels, leaving college graduates with the ever-increasing burden of paying for their college education long after they have completed their education; and,

**Whereas,** It is in the State’s interest that access to post-secondary education for our children be maintained and that encouraging parents to save for their children’s education promotes that public purpose; and,

**Whereas,** It is in the best interest of our State's employers to ensure a well-educated workforce; and,

**Whereas,** Government, at both the federal and state levels, needs to encourage savings versus consumption and assisting rather than hindering parents, grandparents, friends, and businesses, as they seek to support the education of children, grandchildren, and others in need of help to meet their higher education goals; and,

**Whereas,** The State of [state] provides a college savings plan as a Section 529 Qualified State Tuition and Savings Plans (QSTP) through duly enacted laws passed by the state’s legislature, including state tax incentives as [deductions and/or exemptions] for their citizens as a recognition of the value of higher education opportunity];

**Now, Therefore, I,** [Governor],Governor of the State of [state], do hereby proclaim the month of September, 20XX, as “College Savings Month.” In doing so, I urge families and employers throughout the State to recognize the benefit of attaining a higher education and urge the citizens of [state] to begin saving for their children’s education.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand this [first/other day of the month] day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand XX.

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Signature