WHEREAS, the theme for November 2019 is “National Adoption Month – Youth Voices: Why Family Matters”; and

WHEREAS, more than 16,000 Ohio children live in foster homes or other out-of-home placement settings; and

WHEREAS, more than 3,000 of those children and youth in foster care are waiting to be adopted; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,200 of the children awaiting adoption are 13 and older; and

WHEREAS, the children age 12 and older awaiting adoption have been in foster care for an average of 1,614 days, which is 4 years and 5 months; and

WHEREAS, 251 of those children will turn 18 in the next year and are at risk of transitioning out of the children services system without a forever family; and

WHEREAS, older youth need permanent, lifelong relationships and meaningful connections to supportive adults to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, youth are never too old to be adopted by forever families; and

WHEREAS, adoption enriches the lives of both children and the families who welcome them; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, along with public and private child caring agencies throughout the state, work diligently to provide safe, stable, permanent homes for Ohio’s most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, it takes 100% Heart to Foster and Adopt in Ohio.

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize November 2019 as

ADOPTION RECOGNITION AND RECRUITMENT MONTH

on this 1st day of November 2019.

Mike DeWine  
Governor

Jon Husted  
Lieutenant Governor