WHEREAS, as children across the state of Iowa prepare for the start of another school year, many of them will begin their studies with undiagnosed and untreated eye coordination and eye tracking problems that could interfere with their ability to read and learn; and

WHEREAS, research shows that vision disorders are the number one handicapping condition of children; and

WHEREAS, as many as one in four school age children have vision problems that could interfere with learning, according to the College of Optometrists in Vision Development; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve the opportunity to learn and to achieve their full potential; and

WHEREAS, for this reason, public awareness about vision problems that can interfere with reading and learning is necessary to ensure that young people receive the prompt vision treatment they need to enhance their lives; and

WHEREAS, therefore, I encourage parents, educators, school nurses and all concerned adults to recognize the critical role good visual skills play in the learning process and to work together to help prevent or reduce the impact untreated vision problems can have on our children's ability to read and learn:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the month of August, 2017 as

CHILDREN'S VISION AND LEARNING MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HERE-UNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 11TH DAY OF AUGUST IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN.

KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

PAUL D. PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE