WHEREAS: The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a county- and tribally-run program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, that helps low-income Minnesotans purchase nutritious food; and

WHEREAS: SNAP Education and Outreach services promote healthy eating and active living, and improve access to accurate program information and assistance with the application process; and

WHEREAS: Children in families receiving SNAP are less likely to be underweight or at risk for developmental delays, and are more likely to have better school attendance and be more focused in the classroom; and

WHEREAS: Targeted outreach and assistance with the application process triples SNAP enrollment among program-eligible seniors 60 years and older; and

WHEREAS: Good nutrition can help older adults remain independent and in their own homes longer; and every dollar spent on nutrition education saves up to $10 in long-term health care costs; and

WHEREAS: Ninety-seven percent of SNAP benefits are fully utilized by recipients at the end of the month; and

WHEREAS: Every federal dollar spent on the program helps generate a valuable $1.79 boost to the local economy; and

WHEREAS: The Minnesota Department of Human Services partners with the University of Minnesota Extension and six Anishinaabe Tribal Nations — Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, and White Earth — along with 36 other community-based agencies, to inform communities about the purpose, use, and benefits of the SNAP.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of January 2019, as:

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EDUCATION AND OUTREACH MONTH

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 28th day of December.

Mark Dayton
GOVERNOR

Steve Simon
SECRETARY OF STATE