



**John Bel Edwards**  
GOVERNOR  
**Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** according to the U.S. Census, approximately 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 upon 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,** prior to the 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,** over 20 states have established ABLE programs where millions of individuals with disabilities can save money in a tax-exempt “ABLE” account that does not count towards the \$2,000 asset cap; and

**WHEREAS,** many individuals with disabilities and their families are unaware of the life-changing potential of ABLE accounts or misinformed about the rules regarding these accounts; and

**WHEREAS,** the ABLE National Resource Center (ANRC), a collaborative of over 25 national disability organizations whose goal is to provide consistent, reliable information concerning the benefits of an ABLE account, has developed a nationwide campaign, #ABLEtoSave, to educate individuals with disabilities and their families, the financial sector and other stakeholders about ABLE’s potential positive impact on the lives of millions of Americans with disabilities; and

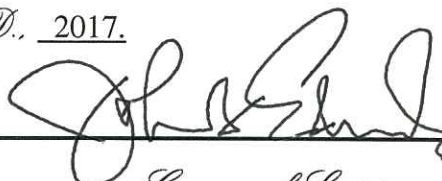
**WHEREAS,** the goal of the #ABLEtoSave campaign is to enhance awareness of ABLE accounts as a financial savings tool and to increase the amount of ABLE accounts opened throughout the country.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** **I, John Bel Edwards,** Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim September 2017 as

**#ABLETOSAVE MONTH**  
in the State of Louisiana.



*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand  
officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the  
State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of  
Baton Rouge, on this 1st day of September  
A.D., 2017.*

  
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Governor of Louisiana