WHEREAS: Liberia has been an independent republic since July 26, 1847; and

WHEREAS: Liberians living in the state of Minnesota, represented by and through the Organization of Liberians in Minnesota (OLM), are making enormous contributions toward the development of the workforce, cultural diversity, and economic growth as well as the development of strategic network and advocacy to address issues facing the over 36,000 Liberians living in Minnesota, including immigration status and other social and economic issues; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota is proud to be called home to one of the largest populations of Liberians outside of the Republic of Liberia and has greatly benefited from many residents who have taken an active role in local organizations, city commissions, and city government; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota recognizes the rich and strong Liberian community that is making our state a thriving, vibrant, and diverse community; and

WHEREAS: Liberian Independence Week aims to honor and highlight the current and historical relationship between the United States and Liberia, and the vital contributions Liberians make to the state of Minnesota.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of July 22 through July 28, 2019, as:

**LIBERIAN INDEPENDENCE WEEK**

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 18th day of July.

[Signature]

GOVERNOR

[Signature]

SECRETARY OF STATE