WHEREAS, the role of the ombuds originated over 200 years ago in Sweden, designated as a government official charged with advocating on behalf of citizens with complaints or problems with the government; and

WHEREAS, today’s ombuds are confidential, independent, and impartial conflict management professionals who work to address individual and systemic issues outside of and complementary to formal channels such as human resources, grievances, complaints, and legal action; and

WHEREAS, ombuds work in a wide variety of organizations within the state of Iowa and worldwide, including universities and colleges, governments at all levels, healthcare institutions, corporations, financial institutions, for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, the media, and international organizations; and

WHEREAS, ombuds programs provide a valuable form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and significant value to the constituents and institutions they serve, and are an essential supplement to formal conflict management processes that address allegedly inappropriate or wrongful conduct; and

WHEREAS, recognition of this day is an opportunity to increase awareness and understanding of the profession, highlight the value ombuds bring to the organizations and constituents they serve, and encourage the greater use of ombuds programs; and

WHEREAS, citizens of the state of Iowa are encouraged to become familiar with the ombuds profession and the professional in this role across sectors, and to make use of these essential services as needed; now therefore

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim October 14, 2021 as

OMBUDS DAY

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREBY SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 14TH DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE.

KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

PAUL PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE