WHEREAS, Maryland, consistently among the nation's highest rated school systems, aims to reach world-class education standards and produce a globally competitive workforce; and

WHEREAS, Gifted and talented students are defined by law as students who have outstanding talent and perform, or show the potential for performing, at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with their peers; and

WHEREAS, Maryland recognizes that gifted and talented students are found in youth from all cultural groups and economic strata; and

WHEREAS, The Annotated Code of Maryland specifies that gifted and talented students require different programs and services beyond what is provided in the regular school program in order to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, The Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.04.07 specifies standards for gifted and talented education student identification, programs and services, professional development, and reporting.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim FEBRUARY 2021 as GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION MONTH in Maryland and urge all Marylanders to join in this observance.