

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY

APRIL 17, 2024

WHEREAS, North Dakotans with disabilities of all ages may need assistive technology devices and services to live independently and productively, as well as participate fully in affairs of their communities; and

WHEREAS, assistive technology is any item, piece of equipment or product system used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities and older adults; and

WHEREAS, the term "assistive technology service" means any service that directly assists a person with a disability or an older adult in the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 26% of adults in North Dakota have a disability, and in 2019, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that 3.1% of children in North Dakota, ages 0-17, have a disability; and

WHEREAS, assistive technology allows North Dakotans with disabilities and older adults to be included in their communities, in the workplace and in inclusive classrooms, broadening the educational experience; and

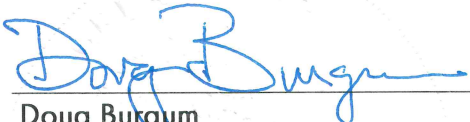
WHEREAS, assistive technology devices and services are not luxury items but necessities for thousands of North Dakotans with disabilities and older adults, and these tools empower people to control their lives and futures and to live independently while aging in place; and


WHEREAS, the availability of assistive technology in the workplace promotes economic self-sufficiency, enhances work participation and is critical to the employment of North Dakotans with disabilities and older adults which can help to address the workforce shortage across North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota is a leader in the development and implementation of assistive technology programs for its citizens with disabilities and older residents in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim  
April 17, 2024, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AWARENESS DAY  
in the State of North Dakota.



  
Doug Burgum  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:   
Michael Howe  
SECRETARY OF STATE