

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2026

WHEREAS, North Dakota recognizes that it plays a vital role in identifying, protecting its citizens from and responding to cybersecurity threats that have significant impact to individual and collective safety and privacy; and

WHEREAS, critical infrastructure, including financial services, educational institutions, energy, telecommunications, transportation, water, utilities, healthcare and emergency response systems, is increasingly reliant on the support of information systems and technology; and

WHEREAS, cybersecurity education and awareness is crucial for everyone, including large corporations, small businesses, financial institutions, schools, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, the home user and anyone who connects to the internet, be it with a computer, mobile phone or other internet-connected device; and

WHEREAS, monitoring your accounts, being conscientious of what you share online, keeping computer software up to date, creating unique passwords and changing them regularly, installing antivirus programs and firewalls and using mobile devices and other internet-connected devices safely, are ways people and organizations can protect themselves from phishing, viruses, ransomware, other types of malware, financial loss and loss of sensitive data; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework is a free resource to help organizations — large and small, public and private — improve their cybersecurity practices through a practical approach to addressing the ever-evolving cybersecurity threats and challenges; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the security of cyberspace is a shared responsibility in which each of us has a critical role to play, and awareness of essential cyber hygiene will improve the security of North Dakota's information, infrastructure and economy; and

WHEREAS, the federal government of the United States of America, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center, the National Association of State Chief Information Officers and the National Cyber Security Alliance recognize October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month; and all citizens are encouraged to reduce online risks by visiting their websites, along with North Dakota Information Technology's (NDIT's) website to learn about cybersecurity and to put that knowledge into practice in their homes, schools, workplaces and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
October 2026, CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH in the State of North Dakota.




Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE