

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH APRIL 2026

WHEREAS, sexual violence is a broad term that includes all unwanted sexual contact, including both physical and non-physical, and is a serious issue that affects communities and citizens across North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, national data shows that 1 in 5 women and nearly 1 in 14 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetime, and 1 in 10 children will experience physical contact sexual abuse before age 18, often resulting in long-term effects that can impact individuals, families, communities and society at large; and

WHEREAS, in North Dakota in 2024, 1,363 primary victims and 231 secondary victims of sexual assault were served by 17 domestic and sexual violence victim advocacy centers, with at least 226 primary victims under the age of 18 years old at the time of the assault; and

WHEREAS, state, local and tribal governments, victim service providers, criminal justice officials, schools and concerned citizens across the state are working to improve policies and practices that promote healthy relationships, respect and consent, and to educate persons on how to intervene to stop harmful sexual behavior; and

WHEREAS, there is compelling evidence that sexual harassment, abuse and assault can be successfully reduced through a variety of prevention strategies which includes increasing awareness, supporting victims and holding offenders accountable; and

WHEREAS, prevention is possible and simple acts can make a difference; North Dakotans are encouraged to have informed conversations and challenge social norms that enable sexual abuse, abuse and harassment; and

WHEREAS, April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and is intended to remember the victims of sexual assault, celebrate the survivors and bring us together to identify and eliminate sexual violence in our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
April 2026, **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH** in the
State of North Dakota.




Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE