

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH MAY 2026

WHEREAS, more than 9,500 Americans are diagnosed with skin cancer every day with more than two Americans dying of the disease every hour; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota has a melanoma incidence rate that exceeds the national average, with an age-adjusted melanoma incidence rate of 26.3 per 100,000 residents from 2017-2021 compared with the U.S. rate of 22.7 per 10,000; and

WHEREAS, recent data show melanoma incidence among North Dakotans increased by approximately 8.47% from 2020-2021, continuing a broader upward trend; and

WHEREAS, in 2017-2021 it was predicted that melanoma incidents in North Dakota would increase at an average rate of 10.1% per year over the following five years, a rate increase that far surpasses that of more common cancers in the state; and

WHEREAS, the skin cancer mortality rate for North Dakota from 2017-2021 was 1.8 per 100,000, and the skin cancer incidence rate from the same time period was 26.3 per 100,000, and about 6% of North Dakota adults have been told they have skin cancer; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans enjoy the outdoors throughout the year, with sun exposure the greatest during spring, summer and fall months, and the most common skin cancers are associated with exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun; and


WHEREAS, there are approximately 26,000 farmers, ranchers and other occupations in North Dakota who work mainly outdoors with an increased exposure to the sun, leading to an increased risk of skin cancer, and individuals can take steps to reduce their risk of developing skin cancer as well as sunburns, premature skin aging and eye damage by being sun safe.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
May 2026, SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH in the State of North Dakota.




Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE