



— State of —
North Dakota

Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

PROCLAMATION
ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH
NOVEMBER 2018

WHEREAS, all North Dakotans recognize that children and teens deserve a family that can provide security, support, unconditional love and a place to call home; and

WHEREAS, each November we celebrate adoptive parents who welcome children and teens into stable and loving families and child welfare professionals and public and private child-serving organizations that ensure North Dakota's children are thriving in safe, nurturing environments; and

WHEREAS, last year 364 adoptions took place in North Dakota, with 190 children adopted from foster care, 32 infants placed for adoption with private licensed child-placing agency involvement, five adoptions of foreign-born children and 137 children adopted by their stepparents; and

WHEREAS, approximately 15 children in North Dakota are currently waiting for an adoptive family to be identified, and many children in foster care currently have identified families who are in the process of adopting them; and

WHEREAS, supportive and committed relationships are critical in helping teens prepare and succeed as they enter adulthood, and National Adoption Month encourages teens to get involved by telling their stories about foster care and adoption with hope of educating their peers and communities about the importance of permanency; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Post Adopt Network provides a continuum of support to meet the needs of all families following an adoption, with services that include crisis response, mentoring, in-person and online support groups and other educational supports, and in federal fiscal year 2018, post-adoption workers made nearly 7,000 contacts with families.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim November 2018, **ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.



Doug Burgum
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State