



State of  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**Doug Burgum**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**  
APRIL 2017

**WHEREAS**, every North Dakotan plays an important role in preventing child abuse and neglect; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 3 million children are reported abused or neglected in the United States each year; and


**WHEREAS**, according to the North Dakota Department of Human Services, in 2016, there were 14,331 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect in North Dakota, resulting in 1,805 children who were confirmed as victims; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that child abuse and neglect change a child's brain architecture and that the effects of child abuse and neglect can last a lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, community support helps families raise children in healthy environments and reduces family stressors, making the community a crucial focus of prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, this year's theme, "Growing Great Kids, Building Strong Families," can be accomplished when communities, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, non-profits, and other partners work together to promote activities that value children and their families.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2017, **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.

  
Doug Burgum  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State