



State of  
**North Dakota**

*Office of the Governor*

**Doug Burgum**  
Governor

PROCLAMATION  
**HEALTH CARE DECISIONS DAY**  
APRIL 16, 2017

**WHEREAS**, Health Care Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions, related to end of life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves, and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, in North Dakota, the Health Care Directives Act provides the specifics of advance directives law and offers a model form for patient use; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that less than 30 percent of people in North Dakota have executed an advance directive, and that less than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients have an advance directive; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant reason for these low percentages is a lack of knowledge and considerable confusion in the public regarding advance directives; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the principal goals of Health Care Decisions Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of North Dakota residents with advance directives; and

**WHEREAS**, Honoring Choices North Dakota and other organizations throughout North Dakota have endorsed this event and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakotans are encouraged to have conversations about their health care decisions and execute advance directives to make their wishes known, with the intent to reduce the number of families and health care providers having to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 16, 2017, **HEALTH CARE DECISIONS DAY** in the State of North Dakota.

  
Doug Burgum  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State