



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

**Doug Burgum**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**PEER SUPPORT DAY**  
NOVEMBER 7, 2018

**WHEREAS**, Peer Support Services provide an opportunity for individuals in recovery, with lived experience facing challenges related to behavioral health including the disease of addiction, to become Peer Support Specialists and assist peers struggling with behavioral health issues, through modeling personal responsibility and changing unhelpful patterns; and

**WHEREAS**, Peer Support Services are founded on the principles of respect and individual responsibility, focused on a mutual understanding of the struggles encountered when addressing issues related to behavioral health including addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, Peer Support Services facilitate the elimination of shame and stigma surrounding behavioral health issues including the disease of addiction by empowering individuals seeking recovery, building on unique strengths, needs and recovery goals; and

**WHEREAS**, Peer Support Services are an emerging best practice for individuals facing behavioral health and addiction issues, by promoting recovery rooted in hope, health and wellness; and

**WHEREAS**, Peer Support Services result in a decreased need for emergency services, reduced use of in-patient treatment, reduced substance use and relapse and reduced involvement with the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, Peer Support Specialists serving individuals participating in the Substance Use Disorder Voucher and Free Through Recovery programs have resulted in measurable benefits for participants, including improved relationships with family and friends, improved community engagement, improved access to social supports, increased treatment retention and increased stability in employment and housing; and

**WHEREAS**, Peer Support Specialists make a positive and meaningful difference in the lives of individuals served.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim November 7, 2018, **PEER SUPPORT DAY** in the State of North Dakota.

  
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Doug Burgum  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
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Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State