



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

**Doug Burgum**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**SCHIZENCEPHALY AWARENESS DAY**  
MAY 19, 2017

**WHEREAS**, schizencephaly is a rare but life-altering developmental birth defect caused by underdeveloped brain formation during pregnancy, for which there is no known cure, affecting an estimated 7,000 individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, this chronic disorder can cause epilepsy, muscle spasms, partial or complete paralysis, poor vision, and other severe medical complications; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals living with this condition must often learn to live with constant medical expenses and continued therapies; and

**WHEREAS**, increased awareness and expanded knowledge of the realities of life with schizencephaly is imperative in allowing communities to better support people who struggle with the challenges of this condition; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations throughout North Dakota and the United States, such as *We Are R.A.R.E.*, are working together to promote awareness and support by providing improved education, diagnosis, research, and treatment options; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakotans are encouraged to demonstrate compassion for their fellow citizens living with this condition by helping in the effort to raise awareness about schizencephaly.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim May 19, 2017, **SCHIZENCEPHALY AWARENESS 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