

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2026

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second-most diagnosed cancer and second-leading cause of cancer deaths in North Dakota among men and women combined; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented with timely screening, but 1 in 3 eligible Americans are not up to date on screening; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is increasing at an alarming rate among young people and is now the leading cause of cancer death for men and women under the age of 50; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, the American Cancer Society estimates there will be approximately 360 new cases and 110 deaths from colorectal cancer in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, when colon cancer is found at an early stage (stage I or II), the 5-year survival rate is 91%, versus 16% when found at stage IV; and

WHEREAS, Americans in rural areas are more likely to be diagnosed with and die from colorectal cancer than Americans in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, observing Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March provides a special opportunity to increase awareness and offer education on the importance of early detection and screening of colorectal cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
March 2026, COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH in the State of North Dakota.




Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE