

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

BIRTH DEFECTS AWARENESS MONTH JANUARY 2023

WHEREAS, birth defects are common, costly and critical; and

WHEREAS, birth defects can occur in any family regardless of race, ethnicity, age, gender, health history, education or economic status; and

WHEREAS, birth defects affected an estimated 43 infants in North Dakota in 2021; and

WHEREAS, affordable, accessible, equitable and culturally responsive health care is needed to address unmet health needs, reduce delays in receiving care and increase use of preventive services; and

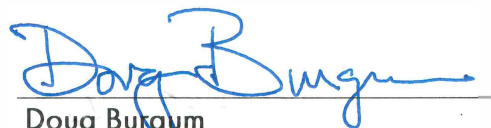
WHEREAS, absence of health insurance coverage increases the likelihood individuals will have poor health status, be diagnosed with a condition later or die prematurely; and

WHEREAS, preventive strategies such as access to regular preconception and prenatal care, taking a daily vitamin with folic acid before and during pregnancy, keeping up to date with vaccinations, caring for your body and mind, managing medical conditions, avoiding the use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs during pregnancy and learning about family history and genetic risks can reduce the chance that a child will be born with a birth defect; and

WHEREAS, early identification of a child with a birth defect coupled with early intervention services can improve the child's quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
January 2023, BIRTH DEFECTS AWARENESS MONTH in the State of North Dakota.





Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 

Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE