



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

PROCLAMATION
BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH
JANUARY 2019

WHEREAS, birth defects are structural changes present at birth that can affect almost any part or parts of the body and are common, costly and critical; and

WHEREAS, birth defects can occur in any infant regardless of either parent's age, race, education, ethnicity, health history or economic status; and

WHEREAS, birth defects affect an estimated 340 infants born in North Dakota each year; and

WHEREAS, birth defects are a leading cause of infant death, accounting for one in every five infant deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, steps can be taken to reduce the chance a child will be born with a birth defect, such as taking a daily vitamin with folic acid before and during pregnancy, getting regular prenatal care, becoming up-to-date with vaccinations, reaching a healthy weight before pregnancy and stopping the use of alcohol or drugs during pregnancy; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim January 2019, **BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.


Doug Burgum
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State