## NORTH DAKOTA

## E P R O C L A M A T I O N ===

## BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2021

WHEREAS, brain injuries are a serious national public health epidemic affecting more than 3.6 million Americans annually, translating to more than 9,000 North Dakotans; and

WHEREAS, brain injury includes any injury to the brain after birth, including traumatic injuries, stroke, anoxia and tumors; and

WHEREAS, brain injury is a contributing factor to a third of all injury-related deaths in the United States and is the leading cause of death and disability in children and young adults; and

WHEREAS, more than 9.5 million children and adults in the U.S. live with a lifelong disability as a result of a brain injury, translating to more than 22,000 North Dakotans; and

WHEREAS, an injury that happens in an instant can bring a lifetime of physical, cognitive and behavior challenges; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Department of Human Services, as the lead state agency serving people with brain injury, works collaboratively with the North Dakota Brain Injury Advisory Council and the North Dakota Brain Injury Network, to build a system of coordinated services for individuals with brain injury and their families; and

WHEREAS, public awareness is important for the prevention of brain injuries and for enhancing the recovery process for all individuals affected by brain injuries.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim March 2021, BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH in the State of North Dakota.

OF NORTH DA

Doug Bulgum GOVERNOR

Alvin A. Jaeger SECRETARY OF STATE