NORTH DAKOTA

\equiv PROCLAMATION \equiv

CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 2022

WHEREAS, a congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) is a birth defect that occurs during fetal development when the diaphragm fails to fully form, allowing abdominal organs to migrate through the hole into the chest cavity and, ultimately, may cause the lungs to be small and underdeveloped; and

WHEREAS, one in every 2,500 pregnancies are diagnosed with CDH resulting in approximately 1,600 babies born with CDH every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, though CDH is as common as spina bifida and cystic fibrosis, very few people are aware of this serious, life-threatening condition; and

WHEREAS, there are many people living in North Dakota who have been diagnosed with and survived their CDH; tragically, many families in North Dakota have endured the horrible pain and grief associated with the loss of loved ones with CDH; and

WHEREAS, those with CDH often endure multiple surgeries and possible medical complications beyond their diagnosis that include heart defects, pulmonary complications, gastric and intestinal problems and developmental delays, and may require respiratory and medicinal support for years; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness of this congenital defect will help bring about acceptance and support for those suffering with it and will help advocate for urgently needed medical research and advances.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim

April 2022, CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH in the State of North Dakota.

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Doug Burgum GOVERNOR

Alvin A. Jaeger SECRETARY OF STATE