

PROCLAMATION **CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**APRIL 2-8, 2017

WHEREAS, National Crime Victims' Rights Week – April 2 to 8, 2017 – is an important time to join together across our state and nation to celebrate the theme of "Strength. Resilience. Justice;" and

WHEREAS, victims and survivors of crime across America need and deserve consistent access to support and assistance that can help them cope with the short- and long-term consequences of crime; and

WHEREAS, victims and survivors of crime can receive a wide range of supportive services offered by over 30,000 community- and justice system-based programs, and exercise their rights as defined by more than 32,000 federal and state laws; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Victims Assistance Association, the county victim witness coordinators, the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's victim coordinator, the North Dakota Council on Abused Women's Services/Coalition Against Sexual Assault, the domestic violence victim advocates, and law enforcement agencies provide support, referrals, and valuable information on victims' rights and on the North Dakota Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification Program, which allows victims and concerned citizens to register for timely, confidential updates on criminal cases and incarceration status; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota citizens and organizations, including schools, churches and governments, are encouraged to support and join forces with victim service providers and criminal justice officials throughout North Dakota and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and to observe Crime Victims' Rights Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2-8, 2017, **CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK** in the State of North Dakota.

Alvin A. Jaeger

ATTEST:

Secretary of State