



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

PROCLAMATION
DEAF AWARENESS WEEK
SEPTEMBER 24-30, 2018

WHEREAS, deafness is the physiological loss or absence of hearing that affects individuals from all walks of life regardless of age, race, gender or social and economic status; and

WHEREAS, 48 million Americans have some degree of deafness or hearing loss, and the most recent data from 2015 estimates 86,235 North Dakota residents experience varying levels of deafness or hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota School for the Deaf was established in 1890 by the North Dakota Constitution, remaining to this day an important part of the continuum of services provided by the North Dakota education system and serving as a State Resource Center to provide advocacy, leadership and educational expertise for all individuals in North Dakota who are deaf or hard of hearing; and


WHEREAS, progress in creating access to job opportunities, qualified interpreters and hearing-assistive technology has drastically improved quality of life for deaf individuals across the nation; and

WHEREAS, increased exposure to deaf needs and deaf culture is imperative to the success and inclusion of the deaf community within our nation and the State of North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the North Dakota deaf community has collaborated with major movie theaters to offer open caption screenings, partnered with the City of Fargo and Streets Alive to publicize the installment of sign language artistic bike racks in downtown Fargo, coordinated the first ASL (American Sign Language) Night with the F-M RedHawks and is organizing the first annual Deaf Awareness Week activities; and

WHEREAS, the last full week of September is internationally recognized as Deaf Awareness Week.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim September 24-30, 2018, as **DEAF AWARENESS WEEK** in the State of North Dakota.



Doug Burgum
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State