

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2023

WHEREAS, diaper need, the condition of not being able to afford a sufficient supply of clean diapers to keep babies and toddlers clean, dry and healthy, can adversely affect the health and well-being of children and their families; and

WHEREAS, national surveys and research studies report that nearly 1 in 2 families struggles with diaper need, and 48% of families delay changing a diaper to extend the available supply; and

WHEREAS, a daily or weekly supply of diapers is generally an eligibility requirement for babies and toddlers to participate in child care programs and quality early-education programs that enable children to thrive and parents to work; and many parents struggling with diaper need report missing an average of five days of work each month due to an insufficient supply of diapers; and

WHEREAS, without enough diapers, babies and toddlers risk infections and health problems that may require medical attention resulting in medical costs, and parents may be prevented from accessing child care needed to go to work or school, thereby destabilizing the family's economic prospects and well-being; and

WHEREAS, the people of North Dakota recognize that diaper need is a public health issue, and addressing diaper need can lead to economic opportunity for the state's families and communities and improved health for children, thus ensuring all children and families have access to the basic necessities required to thrive and reach their full potential; and

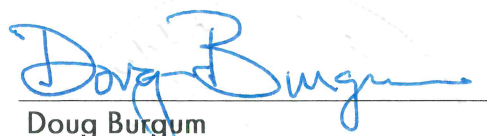
WHEREAS, House Bill 1177 was passed by the 68th Legislative Assembly and signed into law eliminating sales tax on children's diapers — recognizing the vital importance of diaper access and keeping money in the hands of North Dakota families; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota is proud to be home to trusted community-based organizations including Project BEE and Great Plains Food Bank that recognize the importance of diapers in ensuring health and providing economic stability for families and thus distribute diapers to families through various channels; and

WHEREAS, through their important work of addressing diaper need, diaper banks play a critical role in supporting families, improving infant health and wellbeing, and advancing our local and state economic growth.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
September 18-24, 2023, **DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK** in the State of North Dakota.




Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE