

PROCLAMATION **DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH**OCTOBER 2018

WHEREAS, the month of October is designated as Down Syndrome Awareness Month to raise awareness of the needs of individuals with Down syndrome and celebrate their many contributions and abilities; and

WHEREAS, people with Down syndrome possess a wide range of abilities and are active participants in educational, occupational, social and recreational circles of the community; and

WHEREAS, the estimated 600 individuals with Down syndrome living in North Dakota are recognized as valued citizens deserving to live and grow in their own homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, developed by the National Down Syndrome Society in 1995, the Buddy Walk is an opportunity to celebrate the abilities, potential and accomplishments of individuals with Down syndrome in our communities; and

WHEREAS, several organizations in North Dakota, including Designer Genes of ND Inc., GiGi's Playhouse Fargo LLC and B.U.D.S. (Better Understanding Down Syndrome) of Greater Grand Forks, promote and support quality of life for individuals with Down syndrome and their families; and

WHEREAS, North Dakotans are encouraged to support activities that celebrate the valuable contributions to our State by individuals with Down syndrome.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim October 2018, **DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.

Doug Burgun

ATTEST:

Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State