



— State of —  
**North Dakota**

*Office of the Governor*

**Doug Burgum**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY**  
JUNE 15, 2018

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota joins other states in recognizing Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2018;

**WHEREAS**, older adults serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers and vital participating members of our communities and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity;

**WHEREAS**, about 14 percent of the state's population is age 65 and older, and close to one in three of these older North Dakotans live alone, putting them at increased risk for social isolation, self-neglect, abuse and exploitation;

**WHEREAS**, the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) and the North Dakota Department of Human Services join other like-minded organizations in recognizing the significance of elder abuse as a public health and human rights issue and are continually striving to raise awareness, prevent and address elder abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, in Federal Fiscal Year 2017, the department's Aging Services Division received 1,921 reports of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults, and experts estimate that on average in the United States only one in 24 cases are reported; and

**WHEREAS**, ageism and social isolation adversely affect the health and well-being of many older adults and are major contributing factors for elder abuse in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, preventing abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults through maintaining and improving social supports and services such as senior centers, health and human services, transportation and integrated community living can allow older individuals to continue to live as independently as possible and contribute to the life and vibrancy of our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim June 15, 2018, as **ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY** in the State of North Dakota.

A blue ink signature of Doug Burgum, written over a horizontal line.

Doug Burgum  
Governor

ATTEST:

A blue ink signature of Alvin A. Jaeger, written over a horizontal line.

Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State