



— State of —
North Dakota

Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

PROCLAMATION
ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY
JUNE 15, 2017

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau approximately 105,000 North Dakotans are age 65 and older; and

WHEREAS, older adults who experience abuse or neglect are twice as likely to be hospitalized as other seniors; and

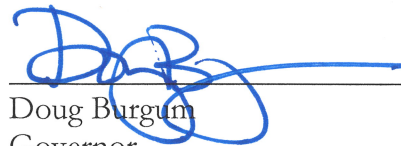
WHEREAS, financial abuse and exploitation can deprive vulnerable adults of funds they may need to pay for basic needs such as housing, food, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division offers a statewide adult protective services program to simplify access to services and supports that help protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and help them live as independently as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Aging Services Division received 1,737 calls about suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults in federal fiscal year 2016. Even though North Dakota requires mandated reporting of abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults and has enacted civil and criminal penalties, such situations are often under reported; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and grassroots involvement can create change that increases the identification and reporting of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation by the public, professionals, and victims themselves.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim June 15, 2017, **ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY** in the State of North Dakota.



Doug Burgum
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State