## NORTH DAKOTA

## $PROCLAMATION \equiv$

## FAMILY UNIFICATION MONTH JUNE 2025

WHEREAS, we celebrate not just the families who have been able to reunify, but also the importance of preventing removals and separations whenever possible and keeping families together through advocacy, support and services; and

WHEREAS, reunification occurs after children have been placed out of the home. Relatives and kinship support such as neighbors, friends and teachers help provide stability each day to children in our communities; and

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing need to engage family and kinship caregivers immediately to maintain family connections and cultural traditions, to minimize the trauma of family separation, and relieve anxieties that come with traditional foster placements; and

WHEREAS, this annual observance celebrates the strength and resilience of families, communities and advocates working to keep families together. It's not just about reunification-it's about preventing separation and creating systems that support families from the start. Together, we as North Dakotans can build a future where every family is safe, supported and whole.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim June 2025, FAMILY UNIFICATION MONTH in the State of North Dakota.

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Kelly Armstrong

Michael Howe SECRETARY OF STATE