



— State of —  
**North Dakota**  
*Office of the Governor*

**Doug Burgum**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**HEALTH CARE DECISIONS DAY**  
APRIL 16, 2019

**WHEREAS**, Health Care Decisions Day encourages public awareness of the need to plan for health care decisions related to end of life care and medical decision-making when patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and

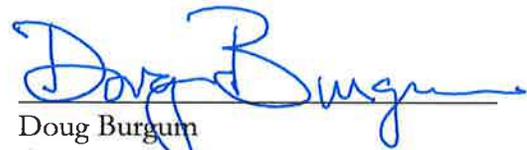
**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that only about 20 percent of people in North Dakota have executed an advance directive; moreover, it is estimated that less than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients have an advance directive; and

**WHEREAS**, in North Dakota, the Health Care Directives Act provides the specifics of our advance directives law and offers a model form for individual use; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the principal goals of Health Care Decisions Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities and hospices to participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives, as well as to encourage medical professionals and lawyers to volunteer their time and efforts to improve public knowledge and increase the number of citizens with advance directives; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakotans are encouraged to have conversations about their health care decisions and execute advance directives to make their wishes known to assist families and health care providers struggling to make difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 16, 2019, **HEALTH CARE DECISIONS DAY** in the State of North Dakota.

  
Doug Burgum  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State