

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AWARENESS DAY MAY 5, 2021

WHEREAS, there are approximately 39,000 Indigenous people living in North Dakota and Indigenous people are victimized by human trafficking at rates higher than that of the general population; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous people are more than twice as likely to experience violent crimes and at least twice as likely to experience rape and sexual assault crimes compared to other races; and

WHEREAS, at least four out of five Indigenous people have experienced violence in their lifetime, and on some reservations, Indigenous women are murdered at more than 10 times the national average; and

WHEREAS, homicide is the third-leading cause of death among Indigenous women between 10 and 24 years of age; and

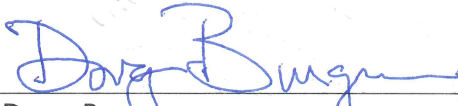
WHEREAS, cases involving the disappearances of Indigenous people often are difficult to track, investigate and prosecute in part due to jurisdictional challenges, lack of resources and lack of communication and coordination among federal, state and tribal officials; and

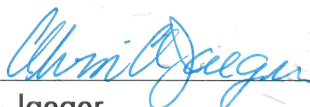
WHEREAS, Indigenous people have inhabited the North American continent, including the State of North Dakota, for many centuries, and from the first contact with settlers from other countries, Native Americans shared their knowledge of the land and its resources, and have continued to play a vital role in the development of local communities, the State of North Dakota and the nation; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, North Dakotans are encouraged to prevent further tragedies, to promote healing and to demonstrate solidarity with the families of victims of those tragedies and to increase awareness in the United States of the Indigenous women and girls who have not had the proper attention or justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
May 5, 2021, **MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AWARENESS DAY**
in the State of North Dakota.




Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Alvin A. Jaeger
SECRETARY OF STATE