



State of
North Dakota

Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

PROCLAMATION
ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH
NOVEMBER 2017

WHEREAS, each November we celebrate adoptive parents who welcome children into stable and loving families and make meaningful and lasting differences in the lives of their children; and

WHEREAS, all children deserve a family that can provide security, warmth and unconditional love to help them succeed; and

WHEREAS, last year 356 adoptions took place in North Dakota, with 149 children adopted from foster care, 34 infants placed for adoption with private licensed child placing agency involvement, 6 adoptions of foreign-born children and 167 children adopted by their stepparent; and

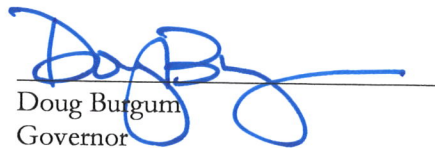
WHEREAS, there are approximately 29 children in North Dakota who are currently waiting for an adoptive family to be identified, and there are many children in foster care who currently have identified families who are in the process of adopting them; and

WHEREAS, the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 18, marks National Adoption day, a time to reflect and give gratitude to adoptive families. This year 19 children will have their adoptions finalized on that day in local events to commemorate the occasion; and

WHEREAS, supportive and committed relationships are critical in helping teens prepare and succeed as they enter adulthood. National Adoption Month focuses on helping agencies build more targeted recruitment strategies and develop a continuum of services to support teenagers seeking permanency; and

WHEREAS, to support adoptive families, the state offers post-adoption services through the North Dakota Post Adopt Network. These services include crisis response, in-person and online support groups and other educational supports.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim November 2017, **ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.


Doug Burgum
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State