

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

AUGUST 31, 2021

WHEREAS, addiction is a disease, and the shame and stigma associated with the disease of addiction must be addressed; and

WHEREAS, prescription and illegal drug overdoses are now the No. 1 cause of accidental death in the United States, surpassing car accidents; and

WHEREAS, in North Dakota alone, 118 individuals died as a result of drug overdose in 2020; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 50,000 people die annually as a result of a drug overdose and another 2.5 million are treated in emergency departments for the misuse or abuse of drugs every year in the United States; and

WHEREAS, by acknowledging the residents who have been affected by overdose, we help the general public understand its effects on North Dakota's communities; and

WHEREAS, practitioners, persons at high risk, family members and others can save lives by learning about the signs of an overdose and how to administer naloxone and then calling 911; and

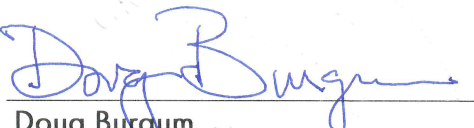
WHEREAS, access to effective treatment services, including medication assisted treatment, is vital and recovery is possible; and


WHEREAS, the Behavioral Health Division of the North Dakota Department of Human Services and the Office of Recovery Reinvented remain committed to raising awareness of the disease of addiction and eliminating the shame and stigma associated with the disease of addiction; and

WHEREAS, August 31 is recognized in communities around the world as a day to remember individuals who were lost to drug overdose and to support their families and loved ones.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim August 31, 2021, **OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY** in the State of North Dakota.



  
Doug Burgum  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:   
Alvin A. Jaeger  
SECRETARY OF STATE