



— State of —  
**North Dakota**

*Office of the Governor*

**Doug Burgum**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**PHELAN-McDERMID SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY**  
OCTOBER 22, 2018

**WHEREAS**, it is important to accurately detect and test for Phelan-McDermid Syndrome, also known as 22q13 Deletion Syndrome, which is a rare genetic condition caused by a deletion or other structural change of the terminal end of chromosome 22 in the 22q13 region or a disease-causing mutation of the SHANK3 gene; and

**WHEREAS**, this microdeletion is rarely uncovered by typical genetic screening, therefore a fluorescence in situ hybridization, or FISH test, or whole exome sequencing (WES) is recommended to confirm the diagnosis; and

**WHEREAS**, individuals, parents and advocacy groups can increase awareness of Phelan-McDermid Syndrome and its symptoms through scientific educational opportunities and informational exchange; and

**WHEREAS**, although the range and severity of symptoms may vary, Phelan-McDermid Syndrome is generally thought to be characterized by intellectual disability of varying degrees, delayed or absent speech, symptoms of autism spectrum disorder, low muscle tone, motor delays and epilepsy; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to raise awareness of Phelan-McDermid and promote education that will help inform citizens about this disease.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim October 22, 2018, **PHELAN-McDERMID SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY** in the State of North Dakota.

  
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Doug Burgum  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
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Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State