

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE MONTH  
OCTOBER 2023

PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY  
OCTOBER 15, 2023

WHEREAS, on October 25, 1988, President Ronald Reagan designated October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month; and in 2002, a group of women successfully petitioned the federal government and the governors of each of the 50 states, to observe Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day on October 15 of each year; and

WHEREAS, each year, approximately 1 million pregnancies in the United States end in miscarriage, stillbirth, the death of a newborn baby or sudden unexplained infant death syndrome; and approximately 1 in every 4 women suffers a miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant loss; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, there were 42 infant deaths in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, unlike the terms "widow" and "orphan," no one word describes a woman or parent who has lost a child; and without a simple term, the loss often goes unsaid; and

WHEREAS, it is a great tragedy to lose the life of a child, and the grief of those who mourn the loss of these lives should be remembered by a compassionate public; the observance of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Month and Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day aims to provide some comfort to those who have lost a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or other complications; and

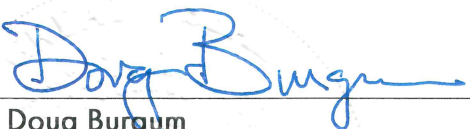
WHEREAS, North Dakotans are invited to help improve birth outcomes for families in the state by telling expectant parents about Count the Kicks, an evidence-based public health program teaching expectant parents to track their baby's movement in the third trimester of pregnancy and empowering them to speak up if they notice a change; and

WHEREAS, observing Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Month in October and Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day on October 15 enables us to consider how, as individuals and communities, we can help meet the needs of bereaved mothers, fathers and family members, and work to prevent the causes of these deaths; and

WHEREAS, throughout this month, North Dakotans are encouraged to recognize the support groups and community organizations across the state that provide assistance to those who have lost an infant, and to remember the lives that have been lost and the families who mourn them.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim  
October 2023, PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE MONTH, and  
October 15, 2023, PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY in the  
State of North Dakota.



  
Doug Burgum  
GOVERNOR

  
ATTEST:

Michael Howe  
SECRETARY OF STATE