

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

REUNIFICATION MONTH JUNE 2023

WHEREAS, all children need the care, love, security and stability of family unity, including parents, siblings, grandparents and other extended family members to provide a solid foundation for personal growth, development and maturity; and

WHEREAS, reunification with family is the preferred outcome for children temporarily removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care; and

WHEREAS, successful and safe reunification takes work, commitment and investment of time and resources by parents, family members, foster care providers, human service zones, child welfare professionals, service providers, tribal nations, state agencies, attorneys, courts and the community; and they deserve recognition for their teamwork and steadfast dedication to the safety, permanency and well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, reunification most often offers the best option for a permanent and loving home, and hundreds of thousands of children are successfully reunified with their families each year in the United States; and

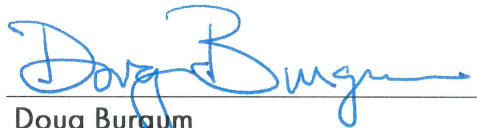
WHEREAS, strong families are key to building strong, vibrant communities; and providing services and support to uplift children and families so they can overcome challenges and be reunited is the main goal of North Dakota's child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, Reunification Month is an opportunity to recognize and support the over 1,450 children living in foster care in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, this national observance calls attention to the value of assuring coordinated family- and child-focused services that provide safety, help, healing and hope to children and their families in our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
June 2023, **REUNIFICATION MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.




Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE