



— State of —
North Dakota

Office of the Governor

Doug Burgum
Governor

PROCLAMATION
SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH
APRIL 2019

WHEREAS, sarcoidosis is a systemic, inflammatory disease that can affect almost any organ of the body and causes the immune system, which normally protects the body from infection and disease, to overreact resulting in damage to the body's own tissue; and

WHEREAS, the signs and symptoms of sarcoidosis vary widely depending on the person and organs affected and can include debilitating fatigue; shortness of breath; difficulties with balance and coordination; irregular heartbeat; visual problems, including blindness; pain affecting joints and muscles; weakness or numbness of limbs; skin rash and discoloration; mood disorders such as depression and anxiety; organ failure; and sleep difficulties; and

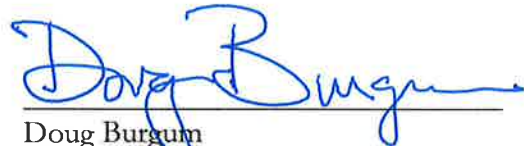
WHEREAS, a common symptom of sarcoidosis is the formation of granulomas, or microscopic clumps of inflammatory cells that group together and can interfere with organ function; and

WHEREAS, research suggests the cause of sarcoidosis is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause and progression of the disease is still unknown; and

WHEREAS, sarcoidosis can affect people of any age, race, or gender, but is most common among adults between the ages of 20 and 40 and affects African Americans at a higher rate; approximately 200,000 individuals across the United States are affected by sarcoidosis; and

WHEREAS, Sarcoidosis Awareness Month generates public awareness, understanding and compassion for those suffering from the disease, along with support for the research being conducted to find a cure.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2019, **SARCOIDOSIS AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.



Doug Burgum
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State