

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH APRIL 2021

WHEREAS, every person has the right to safety at home, and in neighborhoods, schools and communities in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence is a broad term that includes all unwanted sexual contact, including both physical and non-physical, and is a serious public health issue that affects all communities and citizens of North Dakota, without regard for age, race, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or social, ethnic, geographic, or economic differences; and

WHEREAS, there has been a cultural shift that has taken place, prompting victims and survivors who have remained silent to speak up; and

WHEREAS, state, local, and Tribal governments, victim service providers, criminal justice officials, schools and concerned citizens across the state are working to improve policies and practices that promote healthy relationships, respect and consent, and to educate persons on how to intervene to stop harmful behavior; and

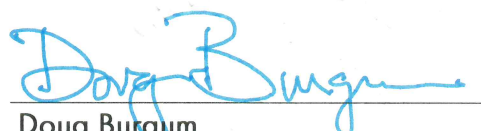
WHEREAS, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual harassment, abuse and assault through a variety of prevention strategies tailored to diverse local communities and culturally specific groups, which includes increasing awareness, supporting victims and holding offenders accountable; and


WHEREAS, North Dakotans are encouraged to have informed conversations, learn the skills needed to be an active bystander and challenge social norms that enable sexual harassment, abuse and assault; and

WHEREAS, let us remember the victims of sexual assault, celebrate the survivors and work together to identify and eliminate sexual violence in our state.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim  
April 2021, **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH** in the  
State of North Dakota.



  
Doug Burgum  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:   
Alvin A. Jaeger  
SECRETARY OF STATE