

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH APRIL 2023

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 in North Dakota, regardless of age, race, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or social, ethnic, geographic or economic differences, though certain groups, such as indigenous persons, experience higher rates of sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, national data shows that more than 1 in 3 women and nearly 1 in 4 men have experienced sexual violence involving physical contact during their lifetime, and 1 in 10 children will experience physical contact sexual abuse before age 18, often resulting in long-term effects that can impact individuals, families, communities and society at large; and

WHEREAS, in North Dakota in 2022, 1,377 primary victims and 323 secondary victims of sexual assault were served by 19 domestic and sexual violence crisis centers, with at least 383 primary victims under the age of 18 years old at the time of the assault; 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 to educate persons on how to intervene to stop harmful behavior; and

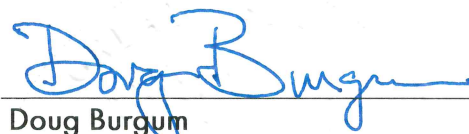
WHEREAS, there is compelling evidence that sexual harassment, abuse and assault can be successfully reduced through a variety of prevention strategies tailored to diverse local communities and culturally specific groups, which includes increasing awareness, supporting victims and holding offenders accountable;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

WHEREAS, prevention is possible and simple acts can make a difference; 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, April is nationally recognized as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and is intended to remember the victims of sexual assault, celebrate the survivors, and bring us 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 2023, **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS & PREVENTION MONTH** in the
State of North Dakota.




Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE