

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH APRIL 2022

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, 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 2021 in North Dakota, 1,139 primary victims and 292 secondary victims of sexual assault were served by 18 domestic violence and rape crisis centers, with at least 298 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 and to educate persons on how to intervene to stop harmful behavior; and

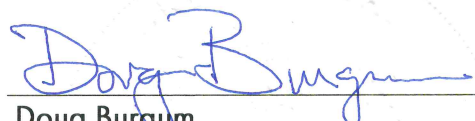
WHEREAS, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual harassment, abuse and assault through a variety of prevention strategies tailored to diverse local communities and culturally specific groups, which includes increasing awareness, supporting victims and holding offenders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

WHEREAS, 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 has been designated nationally as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and is intended to 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 2022, **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH** in the  
State of North Dakota.



  
Doug Burgum  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:   
Alvin A. Jaeger  
SECRETARY OF STATE