

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### WEEK OF PRAYER IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

OCTOBER 23-28, 2023

**WHEREAS**, in response to the brutal terrorism attacks the Hamas terrorist organization launched upon Israel and its citizens in the early morning hours of October 7, 2023, North Dakota fully supports the State of Israel's right to defend its country and its people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Hamas terrorist organization was founded with the stated goal of destroying the State of Israel and has been designated by the United States as a foreign terrorist organization; and

**WHEREAS**, Hamas launched, on October 7, 2023, a highly organized terrorism attack in Israeli territory, killing more than 1,400 innocent civilians, and taking hundreds of Israeli children, women, elderly and infirm civilians hostage, and fired thousands of rockets and mortars against Israeli population centers in an attempt to kill innocent civilians; and

**WHEREAS**, the level of logistical sophistication demonstrated in this Hamas terrorism attack indicates its receipt of support and funding from foreign state sponsors of terror, namely Iran; and

**WHEREAS**, the timing of this Hamas terrorism attack to coincide with the observance of the Jewish Sabbath, the conclusion of Sukkoth holiday and the celebration of the Simchat Torah demonstrates the intent to maximize civilian casualties; and

**WHEREAS**, Hamas and its affiliate terrorist groups continue to brazenly locate elements of their terrorist infrastructure in civilian population centers, thus using civilians as human shields; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota expresses its vigorous support and unwavering commitment to the welfare, security and survival of the State of Israel, and recognizes its right to act decisively in self-defense to protect its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota supports Israel's right to take military action against Hamas and other terrorist organizations in order to remove terrorist threats and restore public safety to innocent Israeli civilians; and

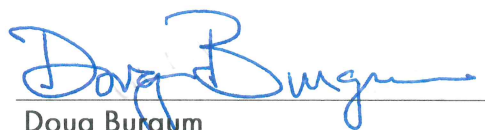
**WHEREAS**, North Dakotans convey our most heartfelt condolences to all the victims and their families, and pray for the safe return of all hostages held by Hamas, including American citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, we call upon law enforcement officials throughout the United States to remain vigilant in protecting Israeli Americans, Jewish Americans and supporters of Israel from acts of crime and unlawful discrimination that tend to manifest at such times; and

**WHEREAS**, we call upon all North Dakotans and citizens around the world to reject hate and terrorism in all its forms and to pray for the innocent civilians impacted by the horrific terrorist attack perpetrated by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and by the ongoing violence in the region.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim October 23-28, 2023, **WEEK OF PRAYER IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL** in the State of North Dakota.



  
Doug Burgum  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:   
Michael Howe  
SECRETARY OF STATE