

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

JUNE 15, 2022

WHEREAS, North Dakota and its citizens joins other states in recognizing Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2022; and

WHEREAS, older adults serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers and vital participating members of our communities and deserve to be treated with respect and dignity; and

WHEREAS, close to 1 in 3 North Dakotans age 65 and older lives alone, putting them at increased risk for social isolation, self-neglect, abuse and exploitation, including financial exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the National Center on Elder Abuse, the North Dakota Department of Human Services and other like-minded organizations recognize the importance of taking action to raise awareness, prevent and address elder abuse; and

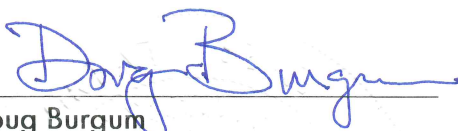
WHEREAS, the state's mandatory reporting law is helping North Dakota take action to protect vulnerable adults, and in federal fiscal year 2021, the number of reports of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of vulnerable adults in North Dakota grew by 19 percent, increasing to 2,941 reports; and

WHEREAS, ageism and social isolation contribute to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation in the United States; and

WHEREAS, strong social supports and services like senior centers, health and human services, transportation, and integrated community living can help prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults and can allow them to continue living independently and contributing to North Dakota's vibrant communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim June 15, 2022, ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY in the State of North Dakota.



  
Doug Burgum  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
Alvin A. Jaeger  
SECRETARY OF STATE