

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

RARE DISEASE DAY FEBRUARY 29, 2024

WHEREAS, there are more than 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare in the United States according to the National Institutes of Health, with each of these diseases or conditions affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans; and

WHEREAS, while each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect nearly 1 in 10 individuals for a total of between 25 million and 30 million Americans affected; and

WHEREAS, many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS, while more than 600 drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and

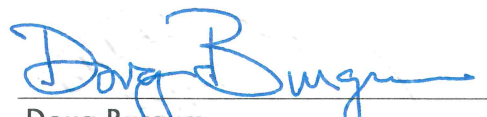
WHEREAS, individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and

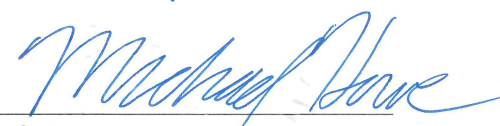
WHEREAS, while the public is familiar with some rare diseases such as "Lou Gehrig's disease" and sympathetic to those affected, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of funding research and raising public awareness to support research for new treatments; and

WHEREAS, patients and caregivers, medical professionals, researchers, companies developing products to treat people with rare diseases and others in the state of North Dakota are encouraged to participate in the observance of Rare Disease Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
February 29, 2024, RARE DISEASE DAY in the State of North Dakota.




Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE