NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION ===

SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH SEPTEMBER 2024

WHEREAS, suicide is a leading cause of death in the United States, impacting North Dakotans, their families and the communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, according to ND Vital Records, 136 North Dakotans died by suicide in 2023; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services provides critical resources and support for suicide prevention, including the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness about suicide prevention, reducing stigma and promoting positive mental health is essential to saving lives; and

WHEREAS, implementing evidence-based suicide prevention initiatives includes implementing prevention, intervention, recovery and postvention services; and

WHEREAS, effective suicide prevention requires collaboration among multiple state and non-state agencies and organizations as well as individual volunteers and suicide survivors; and

WHEREAS, 2024 has been declared Veteran and Military Suicide Prevention and Awareness Year to help bring light to the increased stress and situations that our veterans and military members have experienced; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that with proper communication and services to deal with difficulties in life, regardless of a person's circumstances, suicide is a preventable public health problem for all people, and suicide prevention is a priority in North Dakota.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim September 2024, SUICIDE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH in the State of North Dakota.

Doug Burgum

Michael Howe SECRETARY OF STATE