

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### SOCIAL WORK MONTH MARCH 2024

**WHEREAS**, social workers enter the profession because they have a strong desire to help empower individuals, families, communities and our nation to overcome issues that prevent them from reaching their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, social workers have worked for more than a century to improve human well-being and enhance the basic needs of all people, following a code of ethics that calls on them to fight social injustice and respect the dignity and worth of all people; and

**WHEREAS**, social workers positively touch the lives of millions of Americans each day in a variety of places, including schools, hospitals, the military, child welfare agencies, community centers and in federal, state and local government; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 Social Work Month theme, "Empowering Social Workers," highlights the support social workers deserve as they continue to do the life-affirming work that addresses societal needs; and

**WHEREAS**, social workers are the largest group of mental health care providers in the United States, working daily to help thousands of Americans overcome mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety; social workers are on the front lines of the nation's opioid addiction crisis, helping people get the treatment they need and prevail over substance use disorders; and social workers help people cope with death and grief and help people and communities recover from natural disasters, including hurricanes, drought and flooding; and

**WHEREAS**, social workers work with other professions, community groups, lawmakers, civil rights and other organizations to bring equal rights for all, including women and people of all socioeconomic, cultural, ethnic and religious groups; and

**WHEREAS**, the social work profession is one of the fastest growing careers in the United States, with about 708,000 social workers today and more than 60,000 additional social workers expected to enter the profession over the next decade; and

**WHEREAS**, social workers continue to advocate for changes that make society a better place to live, including fair wages, improved workplace safety and social safety net programs that alleviate poverty, hunger and homelessness.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim  
March 2024, **SOCIAL WORK MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael Howe".

Michael Howe  
SECRETARY OF STATE