



— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

PROCLAMATION
ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY
JUNE 15, 2016

WHEREAS, North Dakota joins other states in recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2016; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 105,000 North Dakotans are age 65 and older; and

WHEREAS, older North Dakotans are valued members of society and should be able to live safely and with dignity; and

WHEREAS, older adults who experience abuse or neglect are twice as likely to be hospitalized as other seniors; and

WHEREAS, financial abuse and exploitation can deprive vulnerable adults of funds they may need to pay for basic needs such as housing, food, and medical care; and

WHEREAS, collaborative efforts, including various community coalitions, partnerships and networks, work to identify options for vulnerable adults who may be impacted by abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Aging Services Division offers a statewide Adult Protective Services Program to facilitate services and support that helps protect vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect or exploitation, and also helps them live as independently as possible; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota strives to protect those who cannot protect themselves by requiring mandated reporting of abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults, and has increased penalties relating to the exploitation of vulnerable adults; and

WHEREAS, public awareness and grassroots involvement can create change that increases the identification and reporting of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation by the public, professionals, and victims themselves.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim June 15, 2016, **ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY** in the state of North Dakota.


Jack Dalrymple
Governor

ATTEST:


Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State