STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH
OCTOBER 2020

WHEREAS, there are 4,853 individuals living in 78 nursing homes and 3,895 individuals living in 130 basic care and assisted living facilities in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, many residents of long-term care facilities have led long lives in our communities, growing businesses, raising families and serving in leadership roles, and their valuable contributions to our communities and future generations are deserving of respect and admiration; and

WHEREAS, the federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 guarantees residents their individual rights in order to promote and maintain their dignity and autonomy; and

WHEREAS, all residents should be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, we wish to honor and celebrate these citizens, to recognize their rich individuality, and to reaffirm their right to vote and participate politically and their right to have a say in their care and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the months of restrictions on visitation in long-term care facilities and the inability of residents, families and friends to be together during the coronavirus pandemic has emphasized the importance of connection, relationships and the impact they have on all of our well-being; and

WHEREAS, individuals and groups across the country will be celebrating Residents' Rights Month with the theme "Connection Matters" to emphasize connections to family, friends and the community as an essential component of good health and quality of life for residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim October 2020, **LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.

Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:
Alvin A. Jaeger
SECRETARY OF STATE