PROCLAMATION

**PREVENTION WEEK**

MAY 12-18, 2024

WHEREAS, National Prevention Week, May 12-18, is an annual observance dedicated to raising awareness about substance use and mental health issues while emphasizing the importance of prevention efforts.; and

WHEREAS, prevention is a vital part of the behavioral health continuum of care, creating an environment that promotes the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities, which prevents problems before they occur; and

WHEREAS, there have been heightened concerns around substance use and mental health. The percentage of North Dakota high school students who seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year increased from 12.4% (2009) to 18.6% (2021) (YRBS). Overdose deaths in the state have increased from 76 in 2019 to 135 in 2022, and then decreased to 113 in 2023 (NDVRS, ND Health and Human Services, Health Statistics and Performance April 9, 2024). Also, North Dakota ranks third in the nation for binge alcohol use (past month) among adults aged 26 and older (NSDUH, 2021-2022), and 38% of fatal crashes are alcohol-related (ND DOT Crash Report, 2022); and

WHEREAS, With the continued need for focus on prevention, it is important to note that prevention works, and statewide and local efforts have seen positive outcomes. In the last 20 years, current alcohol use among ND high school students has been cut in half (from 59.2% in 2001 to 23.7% 2021; ND YRBS). Also, the percentage of ND high school students reporting current cigarette use dropped from 34.8% in 1995 to 5.9% in 2021 (ND YRBS). Implementing effective prevention not only saves lives, but is also cost-effective, saving up to $64 dollars for every dollar invested (Washington State Institute for Public Policy Benefit-Cost Results, 2016); and

WHEREAS, the three primary goals of National Prevention Week are to (1) involve communities in raising awareness about behavioral health issues and implementing prevention strategies, and showcasing effectiveness of evidence-based prevention programs; (2) foster partnerships and collaborations with organizations dedicated to behavioral and public health; and (3) promote and disseminate quality behavioral health resources and publications; and

WHEREAS, everyone has a role in creating a healthier community; to learn more about how to get involved, visit hhs.nd.gov/behavioral-health/prevention.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Mayor of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I do hereby proclaim May 12-18, 2024, PREVENTION WEEK in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.