



— State of —  
**North Dakota**

*Office of the Governor*

**Doug Burgum**  
*Governor*

PROCLAMATION  
**RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY**  
JANUARY 16, 2018

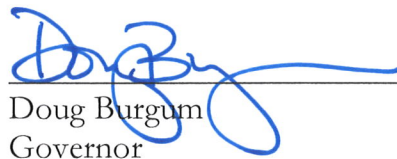
**WHEREAS**, the right to religious freedom has been an important part of America's historical roots; and

**WHEREAS**, our Founding Fathers understood the importance of citizens having freedom of religion for a stable democracy, and our Constitution protects individuals' rights to worship as they choose; and


**WHEREAS**, January 16 celebrates the anniversary of the 1786 Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom that restrained the practice of taxing people to pay for the support of the local clergy, and protected the civil rights of people to express their religious beliefs without suffering discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, each year the President of the United States of America declares January 16 to be "Religious Freedom Day" and calls upon Americans to "observe this day through appropriate events and activities in homes, schools and places of worship."

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim January 16, 2018, **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY** in the State of North Dakota.

  
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Doug Burgum  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
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Alvin A. Jaeger  
Secretary of State