

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, sexual assault affects every person in South Dakota either as a survivor of sexual assault or as a family member, partner, friend, neighbor, or co-worker of someone who is a survivor; and,

*Whereas*, in 2022, a new slogan, "Building Safe Online Spaces Together," is being promoted to help communities recognize that sexual harassment, assault, and abuse can happen anywhere, including online spaces; and,

*Whereas*, many citizens of our great state are working to provide quality services and assistance to sexual assault survivors through staffing 24-hour hotlines, responding to emergency calls, and offering support, comfort, and advocacy during the initial reports to law enforcement, medical exams, and criminal justice proceedings; and,

*Whereas*, numerous domestic and sexual assault programs and other advocates of non-violence have joined forces to support each other in their work and to provide the citizens of local communities and the state of South Dakota with a central source of information on sexual assault; and,

*Whereas*, during the month of April, efforts will be intensified to promote public understanding of sexual violence and to increase sensitivity to survivors emphasizing the need for citizen involvement in efforts to reduce sexual assault through public education and changing society culture and attitudes towards sexual violence; and,

*Whereas*, local victim service agencies, colleges, and other groups throughout the state will be promoting their services to increase community support for their agencies and increase awareness of the healing potential for survivors:

*Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2022, as

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this thirtieth day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.

*Kristi Noem*, Governor

Attest:

*Steven J. Barnett*  
Steven J. Barnett, Secretary of State