

**EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

WHEREAS, children are key to South Dakota's future success, prosperity, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, children have a right to thrive, learn and grow in a safe and loving environment; and

WHEREAS, foster parents, including kinship caregivers, provide the love, safety, and stability which children need in order to overcome past traumatic experiences in order to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota's foster parents are caring for and nurturing children and youth in foster care today; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota's foster parents are helping birth families heal and thrive so children can be safely reunified or help children transition from foster care to permanent homes through adoption or guardianship; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for additional foster parents in order to ensure children - especially older youth, children with complex needs, and siblings - have a safe, stable home in their community; and

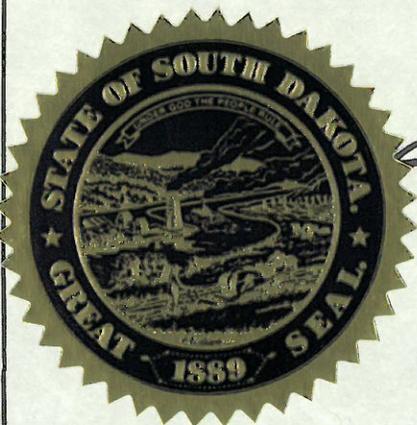
WHEREAS, through partnerships with birth families, foster families, child welfare staff, and public and private agencies, there is a collaborative effort to ensure children are safe, supported, and successful, and we must come together to recognize the important role foster parents play in caring for children in our communities.

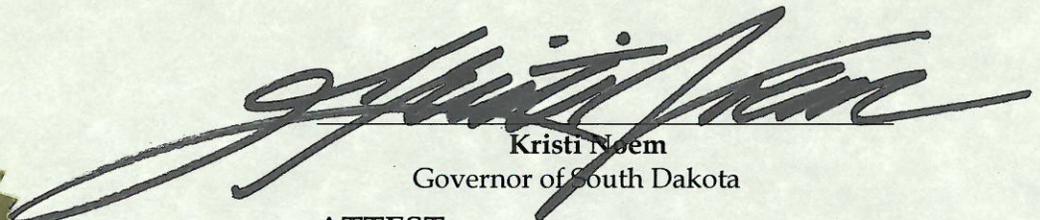
NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May, 2020, as

**FOSTER PARENT APPRECIATION AND AWARENESS
MONTH**

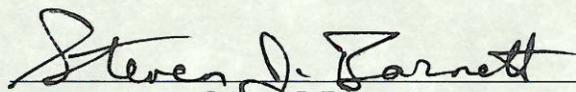
in South Dakota.

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 Twenty-eighth Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.




Kristi Noem
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:


Steven J. Barnett
Secretary of State