

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

WHEREAS, kinship care is an arrangement in which children live with and are taken care of by a family member or people who have an emotionally significant relationship to the children; and

WHEREAS, kinship care can be an informal arrangement between parents and another family to care for their children or may involve placement by a child welfare agency for children in the custody of the South Dakota Department of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, kinship care is the preferred placement for children who must be removed from their families to be safe as it preserves family and cultural connections; and

WHEREAS, kinship care has many benefits for children and families by minimizing trauma and loss, improving well-being, preserving sibling ties, promoting permanency, and preserving identity for children; and

WHEREAS, more than 500 children each month in South Dakota in the temporary custody of DSS or tribal courts reside with and are cared for by other family members or close family friends; and

WHEREAS, South Dakota's families, tribes, DSS, and public and private agencies collaborate to ensure that South Dakota's children have the support they need to remain with kin; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the enduring and valuable contribution of kinship families who reflect the core values of family shared by all citizens of South Dakota.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 2021, as

KINSHIP 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 eleventh day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.



Kristi Noem
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:

Steven J. Barnett
Secretary of State