

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, it is the goal of South Dakota to increase overall awareness of adoption, highlight the urgent need for adoptive families for teens in foster care, and emphasize the importance of lifelong connections for children and youth; and,

Whereas, youth need a strong support network to pave the way for healing, well-being, and long-term stability, especially for those who have had involvement with our child welfare system as a result of abuse or neglect they suffered; and,

Whereas, this year's national focus on adoption is "Honoring Youth: Strengthening Pathways for Lasting Bonds," underscoring the significance of creating lasting relationships that provide youth with the love, support, and stability that will help ensure they thrive as adults; and,

Whereas, approximately 100 children and teens in South Dakota are legally eligible for adoption but do not yet have an identified adoptive family, demonstrating the critical need for compassionate and committed individuals willing to offer these youth the lifelong connection they lack as a result of abuse or neglect; and,

Whereas, in fiscal year 2024, 241 children in South Dakota were placed with adoptive families through the Department of Social Services, and many more found homes through independent and private adoptions; and,

Whereas, National Adoption Day is celebrated on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, offering an opportunity for South Dakotans to give thanks and celebrate the families who have come together through adoption while raising awareness for the children who are still waiting for their forever family:

Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 2024, as

ADOPTION 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-second Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.


Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:


Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State