Executive Proclamation
Office of the Governor
State of South Dakota

WHEREAS, all children deserve to grow up in a family where they are loved and protected; and

WHEREAS, families are needed to provide children a safe, stable, and permanent forever family if they cannot return home after entering the foster care system; and adoptive parents play a key role in the future success and prosperity of youth in our great state; and

WHEREAS, birth parents, relatives, fictive kin families, foster families, and adoptive families all work together to create Stronger Families Together. Adoption creates supportive, loving families for children who are not able to grow up in their family of origin; and

WHEREAS, adoptive families are in need of encouragement, ongoing support, and services in order to meet the needs of children; and

WHEREAS, there is always a need for parents who are willing to adopt siblings, older youth, and young people with complex medical and behavioral needs; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Social Services and private adoption agencies throughout the state work hard to find permanent families for children; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2021, 262 children in South Dakota were placed with an adoptive family through DSS. Many other adoptions took place through independent and private adoptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim November 2021, 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-ninth day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-One.

[Signature]
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Steven J. Barnett
Secretary of State