

***Executive Proclamation***  
***State of South Dakota***  
***Office of the Governor***

***Whereas***, an estimated 54 million Americans have osteoporosis or low bone mass; and,

***Whereas***, in South Dakota, over 5,000 Medicare beneficiaries suffered over 5,800 osteoporotic fractures; and,

***Whereas***, an estimated 800 South Dakotans on Medicare suffered not just an initial fracture but also a subsequent fracture resulting in estimated costs of over \$14.5 million; and,

***Whereas***, the total annual cost for osteoporotic fractures among Medicare beneficiaries is expected to grow to over \$95 billion in 2040 without reforms, as the population ages; and,

***Whereas***, building strong bones begins in childhood and is essential to the prevention of osteoporosis care; and,

***Whereas***, osteoporosis is often called a silent disease because one can't feel bones weakening, and timely bone health screening, diagnosis, and treatment can help prevent fractures leading to hospitalization and nursing home stays:

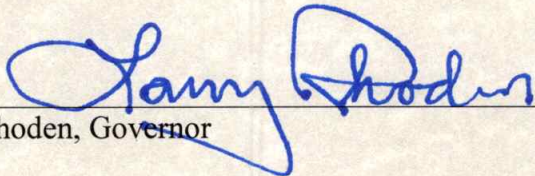
***Now, Therefore, I, Larry Rhoden***, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2026, as

***Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month***

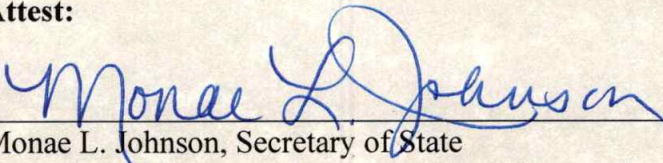
in South Dakota.



***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-First Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.

  
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Larry Rhoden, Governor

**Attest:**

  
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Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State