

# STATE OF MONTANA



## *Governor's Proclamation*



*WHEREAS, human trafficking is a widespread, highly profitable crime generating an estimated \$150 billion worldwide per year whereby traffickers, which are often organized criminal enterprises, profit at the expense of adults or children by compelling them to perform labor or engage in commercial sex; and*

*WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Justice tracks human trafficking cases in Montana and reported an increase of 7 cases in 2015 to 41 cases in 2021, an increase of 485 percent; and*

*WHEREAS, human trafficking contributes to the crisis of murdered and missing Indigenous people; and*

*WHEREAS, non-profit organizations in Montana are committed to providing education about human trafficking, training to identify and report human trafficking, and resources to support survivors; and*

*WHEREAS, private businesses and industry associations are committing resources and educating their employees to prevent human trafficking in Montana; and*

*WHEREAS, under the leadership of Attorney General Austin Knudsen, the Montana Department of Justice, as well as county sheriff's offices, city police departments, and law enforcement agencies across Montana are increasing efforts to stop human trafficking;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana do hereby proclaim January 2022 to be*

### **SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH**

to promote awareness of these despicable crimes and encourage Montanans to be a part of the solution to eliminate human trafficking in Montana.



**GREG GIANFORTE**  
Governor