STATE OF MONTANA

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Montana is home to the Blackfeet Nation, Chippewa Cree Tribe, Crow Nation, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes, Fort Belknap Assiniboine & Gros Ventre Tribes, Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes, Little Shell Chippewa Tribe, and Northern Cheyenne Tribe; and*

WHEREAS, *Native Americans make up approximately 7 percent of Montana's population, but account for 26 percent of missing persons, and Native American women are murdered at more than ten times the rate of the national average, especially for those ten to thirty-four years of age; and*

WHEREAS, *the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) has tragically impacted too many families in Montana, with Montana consistently ranking in the top five states for MMIP; and*

WHEREAS, *MMIP cases often go unreported or can be misclassified due to a lack of information and late reporting; and*

WHEREAS, *Montana must bring all resources to bear to track data, raise awareness, and strengthen interagency collaboration to protect Montana's indigenous persons;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, *Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim May 5, 2021 to be*

MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS AWARENESS DAY

in Montana to encourage collective action to bring the MMIP crisis to an end.

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor