

STATE OF MONTANA



Governor's Proclamation



WHEREAS, all Montanans are entitled to legal counsel when facing criminal charges, regardless of their ability to afford a lawyer; and

WHEREAS, Montana has assigned counsel to individuals charged with felonies since 1871 and individuals charged with felonies and misdemeanors since 1947, establishing the Office of the State Public Defender in 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the State Public Defender's public defenders, administrative staff, case managers, investigators, and contract counsel work tirelessly to provide effective counsel to indigent persons who by law are entitled to representation by an attorney for a variety of cases; and

WHEREAS, public defenders, staff, and contract counsel are essential to a fair and equal justice system under the United States and Montana constitutions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Greg Gianforte, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim March 18, 2023

PUBLIC DEFENDER DAY

in Montana to support public defenders in their essential practice.

GREG GIANFORTE
Governor