

# 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, 2024*

### **PUBLIC DEFENDER DAY**

in Montana to bring awareness to this great practice.

**GREG GIANFORTE**  
Governor