

WHEREAS; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in 2022, there were more than 48,000 firearm-related deaths in the United States, and in 2021, the last year for which individual state-level data is available, there were approximately 800 Wisconsinites who lost their lives to gun violence; and

WHEREAS; according to Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, more Americans are killed with guns by early February of any given year than are killed in the United States’ peer countries in an entire calendar year; and

WHEREAS; gun violence includes, but is not limited to, gun suicides, gun homicides, domestic violence involving a firearm, officer-involved shootings, and unintentional shootings, all of which have widespread implications for victims, survivors, and their communities; and

WHEREAS; a gun violence survivor is anyone who has experienced gun violence, whether through witnessing an act of gun violence, being personally threatened or wounded with a gun, or knowing someone who has been wounded or killed with a gun; and

WHEREAS; research conducted in partnership with Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund reports that 59 percent of American adults, including 71 percent of Black adults and 60 percent of Latino adults, have either personally experienced or had a loved one experience gun violence in their lifetime, demonstrating the pervasive impact that gun violence has on communities across the country; and

WHEREAS; CDC data reports that firearms were the leading cause of death among children and teens in the United States in 2022, and tireless advocates throughout the country are working to end this tragic and senseless public health issue through commonsense gun safety legislation; and

WHEREAS; in addition to commonsense gun safety legislation, the state remains committed to working with partners across the state to support initiatives that reduce gun violence and suicide rates, including community-based, evidence-based violence prevention services, suicide intervention programs, accessible mental and behavioral health services, and program that uplift communities and break the cycle of trauma and violence; and

WHEREAS; according to a 2019 Marquette Law School poll, a majority of Wisconsinites, including a majority of gun owners in the state, support the implementation of commonsense measures like universal background checks and extreme risk protection orders to keep Wisconsin’s kids and communities safe; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to implementing commonsense gun safety measures and reducing gun violence in all its forms to save lives, keep kids, families, and communities safe, and to honor gun violence victims and survivors everywhere;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim January 22 through 28 2024 as

GUN VIOLENCE SURVIVORS WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 5th day of January 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State