

WHEREAS; whether it's long-term, in-home, or hospice care, caregivers deliver a variety of critical services with compassion and professionalism, ranging from personal care, dressing, medication management, and healthcare coordination to complex medical and nursing tasks; and

WHEREAS; like many industries today, the paid direct care and caregiving workforce in Wisconsin is facing a hiring and retention crisis, which has resulted in persistent vacancies in care facilities and a lack of sufficient services for people with disabilities, aging and older adults, and their families, requiring more family members to provide care to their loved ones; and

WHEREAS; according to data from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), in 2023, family caregivers provided roughly 540 million hours of unpaid family care, valued at an estimated \$9.2 billion, and as of 2025, there are now over 1 million adults in Wisconsin serving as family caregivers; and

WHEREAS; caregiving can be a demanding job, as many family caregivers often struggle to meet their own personal and occupational needs, as well as the needs of others in their households, and resources and services to support caregivers are available statewide through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and local aging and disability resource centers, affirming the needs of not just those who depend on caregivers but the caregivers themselves, too; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin recognizes the innumerable contributions and personal sacrifices that both paid and unpaid caregivers make in service to the health and well-being of Wisconsin's communities, reaffirms its commitment to expanding services and resources that support caregivers throughout the state, and to ensuring that all Wisconsinites who depend on the services of caregivers have access to affordable, quality care;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim February 20 2026 as

NATIONAL CAREGIVERS DAY

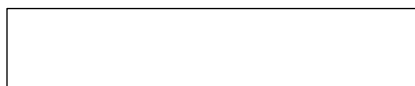
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

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 30th day of January 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State