

WHEREAS; according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a rare disease is defined as a condition affecting fewer than 200,000 individuals, and there are more than 10,000 known diseases and conditions classified as or considered rare, affecting about 1 in 10 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS; while each of these diseases may impact a relatively small group of individuals, the NIH estimates that rare diseases collectively affect an estimated 30 million Americans, including many Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; many rare diseases can be debilitating and significantly impact affected individuals' well-being and quality of life, and while hundreds of drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, many Americans are still living with rare diseases for which there are no approved treatments; and

WHEREAS; individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience additional challenges beyond the symptoms associated with their condition, such as delays in diagnosis, difficulty finding a medical expert, lack of access to treatments or ancillary services, and difficulty affording treatments even if they are available; and

WHEREAS; additionally, while the public widely recognizes many rare diseases, patients and families affected by those that are less widely known often also bear the burden of working to raise awareness and support research into treatments; and

WHEREAS; patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and advocacy organizations across the state work tirelessly to raise awareness, advance research, improve access to care, and promote policies that support equity for the rare disease community; and

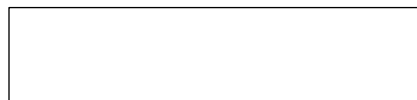
WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated advocates and organizations in spreading awareness of rare diseases and supporting all affected individuals and their families in the state and across the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim February 28 2026 as

RARE DISEASE 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 27th day of January 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State