

WHEREAS; according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), there are more than 10,000 diseases and conditions that are considered rare, affecting about 1 in 10 people in the United States; and

WHEREAS; while each of these diseases may affect a relatively small number of people, the NIH also states that rare diseases overall affect an estimated 30 million Americans, including many Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; many rare diseases are debilitating and have a significant impact on the lives of those affected, and while hundreds of drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases according to the Food and Drug Administration, many Americans are still living with rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and

WHEREAS; individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert, lack of access to treatments or ancillary services, and difficulty affording treatments if they are available, as treatments for rare diseases are often more expensive than those for other more common conditions; and

WHEREAS; while the public is familiar with some rare diseases, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases often bear a large share of the burden of funding research and raising public awareness to support research into treatments; and

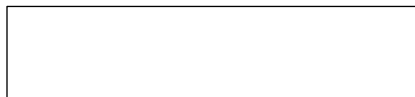
WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated organizations in spreading awareness of rare diseases and supporting all affected individuals and their families in the state and across the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim February 29 2024 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 2nd day of February 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State