

WHEREAS; there are millions of people across the United States living with a developmental disability, including approximately one in six kids between the ages of three and 17, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and their experience is a natural part of life that contributes greatly to the rich diversity and prosperity of the state and country; and

WHEREAS; as creators and artists, employees and entrepreneurs, community leaders and elected officials, friends and neighbors, Wisconsinites with developmental disabilities are valued members of communities across the state; and

WHEREAS; since March 1987, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month has been recognized annually nationwide, and this summer, the United States will celebrate the 34th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibited discrimination against all Americans with disabilities and codified the protection of their civil rights; and

WHEREAS; while the ADA was an important first step, and progress has been made to support Wisconsinites with developmental disabilities and celebrate their many contributions, more work needs to be done to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities are treated equitably and with dignity; and


WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to realizing the full promise of hope, freedom, and equality envisioned by the ADA and the laws of the state and joins individuals with developmental disabilities, advocates, and dedicated organizations in working to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities can access the full range of choices and opportunities available to live their most independent and fulfilling lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim March 2024 as

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

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