

WHEREAS; according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, neuromyelitis optica spectrum disorder (NMOSD) is a rare autoimmune disease that affects an individual's spinal cord and optic nerves; and

WHEREAS; according to Cleveland Clinic, NMOSD occurs when the body's immune system attacks its own cells, and may cause permanent disability, including blindness and paralysis; and

WHEREAS; testing for NMOSD diagnosis can be extensive, often requiring physical examinations, laboratory tests, electrophysiology analysis, or imaging studies; and

WHEREAS; despite advancements in research, treatments for NMOSD remain limited, and the disease is often misdiagnosed, which can lead to exacerbated NMOSD symptoms due to improper treatment; and

WHEREAS; while increased awareness of NMOSD has helped doctors to better recognize and diagnose the varying manifestations of the disease, more needs to be done to ensure greater awareness in the medical community and general population; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated individuals, advocates, and organizations across the state in raising awareness and understanding of NMOSD to promote research, improve patient care and outcomes, and ultimately find a cure;

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

NEUROMYELITIS OPTICA SPECTRUM DISORDER 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 27th day of February 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State