

WHEREAS; originally conceived by civil rights leader Booker T. Washington in 1915, for more than two decades, April has been officially observed across the United States as National Minority Health Month; and

WHEREAS; National Minority Health Month strives to be an inclusive effort to recognize and raise awareness of the unique health needs and challenges experienced by communities of color, including Black, Hispanic, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and Indigenous communities, with the goal of encouraging meaningful action through robust partnerships, health education, early detection, and control of disease complications; and

WHEREAS; in Wisconsin, significant disparities in access to healthcare and health outcomes persist in communities of color, resulting in increased healthcare, social, and economic costs, lower life expectancies, and reduced quality of life among people of color in the state; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is among the worst states in the nation when it comes to disparities in maternal and birth outcomes by race, with Black mothers, for example, being more than twice as likely than their white, non-Hispanic peers to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth; and

WHEREAS; disparities in health outcomes are not the consequence of individual choices but, rather, are rooted in centuries of systemic racism in healthcare systems and perpetuated by factors such as family income, housing, educational opportunities, access to affordable healthcare, lack of or inadequate health insurance, and other social determinants of health; and

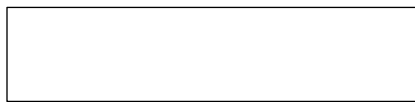
WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated advocates and organizations across the state in reaffirming its commitment to expanding access to quality healthcare and education in communities of color, working toward the elimination of disparities in healthcare and health outcomes, and centering health equity in its work so that all Wisconsinites—regardless of race, ethnicity, or ZIP code—have the opportunity to lead full and healthy lives;

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

## **NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH 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 29th day of March 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State