

WHEREAS; whether it is in the workplace, at school, at home, or anywhere else, sexual violence is pervasive, harming individuals and communities across Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey's most recent report on sexual violence, more than half of women and approximately one in four men in the United States have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately one in four girls and one in 20 boys in the United States experience sexual abuse before the age of 18, and sexual harassment and assault remain pervasive issues on college campuses nationwide, with the Association of American University's Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Misconduct reporting that around one in four women undergraduates and nearly seven percent of undergraduate men experience sexual assault during their time in college; and

WHEREAS; members of the LGBTQ community experience higher rates of sexual violence than their heterosexual peers, and people of color are also disproportionately impacted, having long experienced harm by systemic racism; and

WHEREAS; sexual violence cannot be addressed without also addressing racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of interpersonal and institutionalized oppression; and

WHEREAS; many programs and resources are in place to support victims and survivors of sexual violence, including mental health resources, helplines, and community-based advocacy programs, which can provide critical trauma-informed services, including advocacy, appointment accompaniment, education, follow-up services, and resource referrals; and

WHEREAS; the theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month, "Building Connected Communities," encourages individuals, communities, organizations, and institutions across the state and country to consider structural factors that affect individual's lives, such as determinants of health, education, income, employment, and more, to prevent and end sexual violence; and


WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin honors and joins all victims and survivors of sexual violence, advocates, and dedicated organizations in raising awareness of the prevalence of sexual violence, expanding access to preventative education, and calling on leaders and policymakers to implement and enforce systems and laws that ensure justice and accountability and that support survivors;

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

## **SEXUAL ASSAULT 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 11th day of March 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State