

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) are committed to advocating for the rights, benefits, and financial inclusion of all Wisconsinites with disabilities; and

WHEREAS; Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts are tax-advantaged savings and investment accounts that encourage long-term financial strength and independence and allow qualified Wisconsinites with disabilities and their family members to save money and plan for their futures while maintaining their eligibility for federal public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income benefits and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS; contributing to an ABLE account can empower people with disabilities to move from making short-term financial plans to making lifetime financial plans by helping them and their families accumulate wealth, save for larger expenses, and provide the opportunity to pursue additional income; and

WHEREAS; funds saved in an ABLE account can be used for qualified disability expenses that help improve the overall health, independence, and quality of life of an account owner, including education, employment training and support, housing, transportation, basic living expenses, and more; and

WHEREAS; the federal ABLE to Work Act allows ABLE account owners who do not participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan to contribute above the annual ABLE contribution limit, underscoring the importance of ABLE accounts in retirement planning for employees with disabilities; and

WHEREAS; 2023 Wisconsin Act 267 instructs the DFI to determine how it will establish an ABLE savings program for Wisconsin residents with disabilities either independently or through a collaborative agreement with another state or states by August 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin residents are allowed to participate in ABLE account programs offered by any state on a tax-beneficial basis, and the state of Wisconsin and DFI are working in close partnership with other states to expand the number of people who benefit from ABLE programs by making ABLE-related tools and information readily available to all Wisconsinites with disabilities and their families; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the DFI in supporting the national effort to raise awareness of ABLE accounts, educating the public on how ABLE accounts can improve quality of life through increased financial stability and independence, and providing information and resources about the ease, use, and significance of ABLE accounts for Wisconsinites with disabilities and their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim  
April 2025 as

**“ABLE TO SAVE” 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 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State