

WHEREAS; whether it is in the workplace, at school, at home, or anywhere else, sexual violence is a pervasive issue in communities across the state, nation, and world; and

WHEREAS; according to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, more than 80 percent of women and 43 percent of men have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives, and research suggests that approximately one in four girls and one in 20 boys in the United States experience sexual abuse before the age of 18; and

WHEREAS; sexual violence can happen to anyone and anywhere, but LGBTQ individuals and communities of color face disproportionately higher rates of sexual assault, underscoring the need for efforts to address sexual violence to also include efforts to address systemic racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of interpersonal and institutionalized oppression; and

WHEREAS; critical programs and resources to support victims and survivors of sexual violence, including mental health resources, helplines, and community-based advocacy programs, help to provide critical trauma-informed services, advocacy, education, and resources, and it is imperative that these resources and the providers that offer this vital care receive the support they need to provide for victims, survivors, and their families; and

WHEREAS; the theme of this year’s Sexual Assault Awareness Month, “25 Years Stronger: Looking Back, Moving Forward,” celebrates the resilience of survivors and advocates, the progress communities have made, and the need for continuing to shift culture, strengthen prevention efforts, and create a world free from 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 support survivors and ensure justice and accountability;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim
April 2026 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 31st day of March 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State