

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; ensuring the health and wellness of all mothers and babies—from pregnancy and childbirth to postpartum and beyond—must be a top priority for the state; and

*WHEREAS*; racism, discrimination, and bias that are embedded in society and institutions disproportionately prevent Black mothers from receiving the proper prenatal and postnatal care they need, resulting in disparate maternal health outcomes that can have tragic consequences; and

*WHEREAS*; for example, in Wisconsin, Black mothers are significantly more likely than their white, non-Hispanic peers to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, underscoring the importance of improving Black maternal health outcomes in the state and across the country; and

*WHEREAS*; the need to invest in improving the state's maternal care systems has never been greater, and initiatives to support positive outcomes for all mothers and babies across the state, including postpartum care and maternal and infant mortality preventative measures, are underway; and

*WHEREAS*; in addition to supporting efforts to expand postpartum Medicaid coverage in Wisconsin from 60 days to 12 months, Wisconsin is proud to have a multidisciplinary Maternal Mortality Review Team tasked with reviewing all maternal deaths, developing prevention recommendations and strategies, and increasing public and professional awareness of the incidence of pregnancy-related deaths; and


*WHEREAS*; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins advocates, birth workers, medical professionals, elected officials, and dedicated individuals, families, and organizations across the state in spreading awareness of maternal health issues facing Black mothers, supporting the state's Black mothers and babies, promoting initiatives to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality, and working to eliminate existing disparities and inequities in Wisconsin's maternal healthcare system;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 11 – 17, 2024, as


## BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

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 2nd day  
of April 2024.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

  
SARAH GODLEWSKI  
Secretary of State