

WHEREAS; from pregnancy to childbirth to postpartum and beyond, ensuring the health and wellness of all mothers and babies in Wisconsin is a top priority for the state; and

WHEREAS; racism, discrimination, and biases that are embedded in society and institutions—particularly healthcare 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; it is critical that the state, healthcare providers, hospitals, and community members work together to address the core factors that contribute to Black maternal mortality, from standardizing medical care and emergency responses to fostering a thorough understanding of the needs and concerns of the mother and their medical history; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins mothers, 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 through 17 2025 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 11th day of April 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State