

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

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; expanding postpartum coverage has been a top priority for the state for years and was made possible when 2025 Wisconsin Act 102 was signed into law last month, extending postpartum Medicaid coverage for thousands of new moms, babies, and families across the state from 60 days to one year; and

WHEREAS; further, Wisconsin is home to the 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 – 17, 2026, 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 7th day
of April 2026.

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR



By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State