

WHEREAS; according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the United States, taking the lives of over 100,000 Americans each year, including many Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; research suggests that Black adults in the United States have a higher risk of stroke incidence than white adults, and the mortality rate from stroke is higher among individuals living in rural settings than those living in urban settings, underscoring the influence of factors like access to care, food and housing insecurity, health literacy, and structural racism in driving the incidence of stroke; and

WHEREAS; while strokes are largely preventable with a healthy lifestyle and adherence to prescribed medications, the CDC reports that one in four stroke survivors will have a second stroke; and

WHEREAS; effective treatments are available to treat and minimize the severity and damaging effects of stroke when administered as soon as possible after the onset of symptoms; and

WHEREAS; further research and education on stroke are essential to advance prevention and treatment efforts for all Wisconsinites and all Americans, including—and especially—those with limited access to healthcare; and

WHEREAS; it is critical that all Wisconsinites be able to recognize and act on the signs and symptoms of stroke, including the B.E.F.A.S.T. (Balance, Eyes, Face, Arms, Speech, and Time) warning signs, which include sudden loss of balance or coordination, sudden change in vision, sudden weakness on one side of the face or facial droop, sudden arm or leg weakness or numbness, sudden slurred speech, trouble speaking, or trouble understanding speech, and sudden onset of a severe headache; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated individuals and organizations across the state in encouraging all Wisconsinites and all Americans to manage their risk factors, memorize and share the stroke warning signs, and call 911 at the first sign of stroke;

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

AMERICAN STROKE 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 6th day of May 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State