

WHEREAS; making up the largest sector of the healthcare workforce, nurses are essential to the health and well-being of all Wisconsinites, providing quality and compassionate healthcare to those in need; and

WHEREAS; serving in hospitals, emergency rooms, clinics, long-term care facilities, schools, and community settings across the state, Wisconsin's nurses work in a variety of complex, high-stress environments, often enduring occupational stressors such as repeated exposure to trauma, moral distress, and significant emotional demands; and

WHEREAS; research indicated that nurses experience high rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide, and that the rates of death by suicide among nurses nationwide exceed those of the general population, underscoring the critical need for increased awareness, resources, and support for nurses; and

WHEREAS; stigma, fear of professional consequences, and a lack of timely access to confidential mental health support can prevent nurses from seeking help when they are struggling; and

WHEREAS; evidence demonstrates that proactive awareness, peer support, leadership engagement, and structured postvention following a suicide or suicide attempt can reduce harm, support healing, and save lives; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to dedicated advocates and organizations who are committed to advancing prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies that promote psychological safety, compassion, and recovery for nurses and their families; and


WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in thanking nurses and nursing professionals for their commendable and selfless service and reaffirming the state's commitment to ensuring nurses are given the support to be their best, both on and off the job;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim May 2026 as

## **WISCONSIN NURSE SUICIDE AWARENESS, INTERVENTION, AND POSTVENTION 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 23rd day of April 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State