

WHEREAS; what’s best for kids is what’s best for the state, and it is essential that kids have access to the services and support that they need, including mental health services; and

WHEREAS; mental health is an essential part of one’s overall health and well-being, affecting nearly all aspects of an individual’s life, including their physical health, educational attainment, employment, financial security, and economic prospects, as well as their ability to maintain positive relationships, handle stress, express emotions, and solve conflict; and

WHEREAS; almost every person experiences a mental health challenge at some point in their life, and according to a study published in the National Library of Medicine, half of all lifetime mental illnesses begin by age 14, and 75 percent by age 24; and

WHEREAS; mental wellness is heavily impacted by social determinants of health, such as housing stability, family income, hunger, environmental pollutants and toxins, availability, access, and affordability of healthcare in childhood, access to green spaces, and the social connectedness of a community; and

WHEREAS; mental health outcomes are better when youth have a sense of belonging, when they are socially connected, when they know how to build healthy relationships, when they employ healthy coping skills, and when they are surrounded by supportive adults; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Office of Children’s Mental Health has been monitoring youth mental health for years and finds that outcomes throughout the state, in every county and Tribal nation, continue to be alarming, underscoring the need for universal practices that reach all kids, uplifting communities that foster belonging and connectedness, and evidence-based policies that strengthen families, allowing them to meet kids’ basic needs, and

WHEREAS; this week, and throughout the Year of the Neighbor, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to supporting and prioritizing the well-being of all children and young people, stands ready to take bold action to ensure every child in Wisconsin feels supported and connected, online and offline, at home, at school, and in their community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim May 3 through 9 2026 as

CHILDREN’S MENTAL 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 23rd day of April 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State