

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; mental wellness is heavily impacted by social determinants of health, such as housing stability, family income, hunger, environmental pollutants and toxins, as well as the availability and affordability of healthcare in childhood; and

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

WHEREAS; almost every person experiences a mental health challenge at some point in their life, and half of all lifetime mental illnesses begin by age 14, and 75 percent by age 24; and

WHEREAS; according to the 2023 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, more than half of Wisconsin youth report struggling with anxiety, more than one in three report feeling sad or hopeless every day, and a quarter of Wisconsin girls report seriously considering suicide; and

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, particularly where mental health is concerned; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Office of Children’s Mental Health, an office dedicated to monitoring youth mental patterns in every county and Tribal Nation across the state, continues to find youth mental health outcomes to be deeply concerning, underscoring the need for universal practices that reach all kids, uplift communities, foster belonging, and enact evidence-based policies that strengthen families and allow them to meet children’s basic needs; and

WHEREAS; this week and throughout 2025 the Year of the Kid, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to supporting and prioritizing the mental health of kids, youth, and families and joins families, educators, and mental health professionals in advocating for bold and urgent action to build, fund, and maintain meaningful mental health supports and services for all of Wisconsin’s kids;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim May 4 through 10 2025 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 1st day of May 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State