

WHEREAS; mental health affects how an individual feels, expresses emotions, makes decisions, thinks, acts, handles stress, and relates to others around them, and it is an important part of one's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS; almost everyone experiences a mental health challenge at some point in their life, and whether it is due to underlying mental illness, stress, online bullying, or traumatic events at home or in the news, it is clear that kids across the state are struggling with their mental health, both in and out of the classroom; and

WHEREAS; according to the 2021 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, one in two Wisconsin youth report struggling with anxiety, one in three Wisconsin youth report feeling sad or hopeless, and nearly one in five Wisconsin youth report seriously considering a suicide attempt; and

WHEREAS; mental wellness is heavily impacted by social determinants of health, such as income, housing, availability of healthcare, and the ability to build and maintain social connections; and

WHEREAS; practicing resilience and building social connections can provide relief and support to young people, underscoring the need for targeted mental health services for kids, youth, and families; and

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

WHEREAS; 2024 marks the tenth anniversary of the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health, an office dedicated to monitoring youth mental patterns in every county, Tribal Nation, and across the country and advocating for targeted mental health services and evidence-based strategies that improve wellness for kids, youth, and families; and

WHEREAS; this week, 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 5 through 11 2024 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 22nd day of April 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State