

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin recognizes that what is best for kids is what is best for the state, which means meeting the nutritional needs of every child no matter their ZIP code; and

WHEREAS; while kids under the age of 18 represent only around 21 percent of the state population, nearly 40 percent of Wisconsinites facing hunger are children, according to Feeding America; and

WHEREAS; food insecurity disproportionately affects rural communities, as residents of these communities often face higher food costs, a lack of accessible transportation, lower wages, and underemployment, and with 97 percent of Wisconsin's land area classified as rural by the U.S. Census definition, this means thousands of people across the state—including many children—are nutritionally underserved; and

WHEREAS; in Northern Wisconsin, it can be particularly challenging for families to make ends meet and keep food on the table as the average household income is approximately ten percent lower than that of the average Wisconsin household; and

WHEREAS; Feeding America reports that food insecurity negatively impacts youth mental health, physical health, and academic performance, underscoring the negative impacts that ever-increasing levels of food insecurity can have on rural youth in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; the 2023-25 biennial budget proposes several important provisions to tackle food insecurity in Wisconsin and ensure kids and families in every corner of the state have access to fresh, healthy, locally sourced foods, including continuing the successful Food Security Initiative Program and creating a "Healthy Meals, Healthy Kids" free school breakfast and lunch program; and

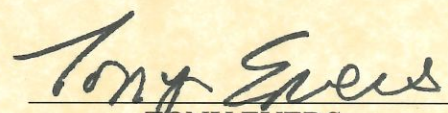
WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins Feed Our Rural Kids in reflecting on the challenges facing kids and families in rural communities, particularly in Northern Wisconsin, and in calling on individuals and organizations across the state to advocate for rural kids from food insecure homes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim May 15 – 21, 2023, as

FEED OUR RURAL KIDS 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 10th day of March 2023.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR



By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State