

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in Wisconsin and is a major contributor to three of the leading causes of death among Black Wisconsinites, in particular, which include heart disease, cancer, and stroke; and

WHEREAS; historically, menthols and other tobacco products have been marketed towards, and have disproportionately hurt, Black communities, exemplified by the prevalence of smoking among Black Wisconsinites being nearly twice that of white Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; the tobacco industry also uses sweet and trendy flavors to appeal to youth, and in recent years, flavored electronic cigarettes and vapes have had an increasingly detrimental impact on the mental and physical health of kids in Wisconsin and across the country; and

WHEREAS; No Menthol Sunday is a national observance that brings awareness to the disparate impact of menthol and other tobacco products on Black health in Wisconsin and beyond; and

WHEREAS; racial health disparities are not the consequence of individual habits or choices—but, rather, reflect centuries of systemic racism—and if we want smoking cessation to improve the health of Black Wisconsinites, we need to confront the need for increased access to quality, affordable healthcare and educational resources in communities of color; and

WHEREAS; in recognition of this year's theme, "Focus on Victory, Go Against the Grain," the state of Wisconsin renews its commitment to educating and engaging with folks about why menthols and other tobacco products are harmful, working to build tobacco-free communities that are healthy and equitable, encouraging all Wisconsinites to reject industry tactics, and changing the policies that result in disparate health outcomes for Black Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; now is the time to quit smoking and work to prevent youth smoking, and people everywhere can be involved in helping their family members, friends, and neighbors who might be struggling to quit by offering them support and letting them know they are not alone;

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

NO MENTHOL SUNDAY

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 28th day of
April 2023.

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State

