

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; every day, more than 120 Americans are killed by gun violence, leaving countless friends, family members, and loved ones heartbroken and traumatized and entire communities living in fear of experiencing or witnessing gun violence; and

WHEREAS; in 2023 alone, there have been more mass shootings than days in the year, with more than 260 mass shootings so far this year that have killed more than 300 individuals and injured approximately 1,000 people as of May 30; and

WHEREAS; gun violence has serious implications for victims, survivors, and their communities and includes, but is not limited to, gun suicides, gun homicides, domestic violence involving a firearm, officer-involved shootings, and unintentional shootings; and

WHEREAS; as gun sales continue to set record highs, calls to suicide and domestic violence hotlines grow more prevalent, and gun violence persists in communities across the state, a widespread commitment to gun violence prevention in Wisconsin and across the nation has never been more important; and

WHEREAS; no person should have to live in fear in their own home or at school, work, places of worship, movie theaters, grocery stores, or shopping malls, and protecting public safety in communities across Wisconsin requires acknowledging the pervasiveness of gun violence in the country, collaborating with affected individuals, groups, and stakeholders, and taking immediate and meaningful bipartisan action to address this pervasive, preventable issue; and

WHEREAS; more than 80 percent of Wisconsinites, including a majority of gun owners in the state, support the implementation of commonsense measures like universal background checks and extreme risk protection orders; and

WHEREAS; these commonsense policies—in addition to increasing investments in local communities, mental and behavioral health services and support, and community safety and violence interruption efforts, among other critical tools—can save lives and will help keep Wisconsin schools, streets, and communities safe; and

WHEREAS; in January 2013, fifteen-year-old Hadiya Pendleton was shot and killed in a senseless act of gun violence in Chicago, and inspired by a group of her friends who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange, National Gun Violence Awareness Day and “Wear Orange” Weekend have been observed annually since 2015 to pay tribute to Hadiya and all other victims of gun violence in the country, as well as their loved ones; and

WHEREAS; gun violence affects everyone, and by wearing orange and attending events today and throughout the weekend, all Wisconsinites and all Americans have the opportunity to help raise awareness of gun violence, urge leaders to take real, meaningful action to end gun violence, and to honor every life that it has taken by gun violence;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 2, 2023, as

NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

and June 3 through 4, 2023 as

“WEAR ORANGE” WEEKEND

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all of the 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 2nd day of June 2023.

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State

