

WHEREAS; older adults and adults with disabilities encounter challenges to their independence, choice, and financial security through predatory schemes and hardships in affording daily necessities; and

WHEREAS; benefit specialists offer expert, confidential, and unbiased counseling and advocate for older adults and adults with disabilities in appealing adverse decisions and providing non-attorney representation at administrative hearings; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin ensures benefit counseling services are available through the aging and disability resource centers (ADRCs), county aging unit, and Tribal aging unit network, the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC), and the Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing; and

WHEREAS; in 2022, benefit specialists assisted over 46,000 older adults and adults with disabilities access programs and services available to them, thereby impacting the state and local communities with services valued at over \$224 million; and

WHEREAS; by helping Wisconsinites access services and advocate for themselves and their loved ones, benefit specialists help mitigate the impact of systemic barriers and ensure that Wisconsin residents receive quality services that increase their health literacy and advance their quality of life; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in recognizing and thanking elder and disability benefit specialists for the important work they do for communities and individuals across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim June 11 – 17 2023 as

## **ELDER AND DISABILITY BENEFIT SPECIALIST APPRETIATION 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State