

WHEREAS; aging and older adults are leaders, mentors, volunteers, and vital members of communities across the state who deserve to be treated with respect and live with dignity; and

WHEREAS; in 2023, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) received nearly 12,000 reports of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of Wisconsinites aged 60 and older, and as the global population of aging and older adults continues to grow, understanding the root causes of elder abuse and the best practices to mitigate its prevalence is critically important; and

WHEREAS; isolation and ageism are leading causes of elder abuse, and preventing the abuse of older adults through maintaining and improving social supports like senior centers, in-home services, and accessible transportation is essential to helping older adults live independently and fully contribute to the vibrancy of Wisconsin communities; and

WHEREAS; every county in Wisconsin has an adult protective services (APS) unit that is overseen by DHS and works to investigate reports of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation and connect adults at risk with supportive services, placement, or court-ordered protection to keep them safe; and

WHEREAS; World Elder Abuse Awareness Day aims to promote a better understanding of the abuse and neglect of older adults, as justice cannot exist when there is abuse, and it is important that Wisconsinites challenge sources of inequities, advocate for the rights of older adults, and be proactive in awareness of signs of abuse; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated individuals, organizations, and advocates across the state, throughout the country, and around the world in raising awareness, taking action to address and prevent elder abuse, and encouraging all people to celebrate and appreciate the countless contributions of older adults and their role in the success of communities across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 15 2025 as

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

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 6th day of June 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State