

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; elder abuse is a serious public health and human rights issue, as, according to data from the World Health Organization, roughly one in six individuals 60 years of age and older experience some form of elder abuse; and

WHEREAS; every county in Wisconsin has an adult protective services (APS) unit that responds to reports of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation by investigating concerns and working with the adult to connect them with services or protection to promote their safety and capacity to remain in the community; and

WHEREAS; in 2025, APS responded to 17,724 reports of abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation in Wisconsin—more than double the amount of cases received in 2016—and responded to more than \$141 million in losses to financial exploitation; and

WHEREAS; 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; preventing abuse of older adults through maintaining and improving social supports like senior centers, human services, and transportation will allow everyone to continue to live as independently as possible and contribute to the life and vibrancy of Wisconsin communities; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated individuals, advocates, and organizations across the state, throughout the country, and around the world in raising awareness of elder abuse, taking action to address and prevent 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 2026 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 10th day of June 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State