

WHEREAS the disability experience is a natural part of life that intersects with every aspect of identity, including race, ethnicity, social, educational, and economic background; and

WHEREAS; disability is a diverse identity in and of itself, encompassing those with physical, intellectual, developmental, emotional, invisible, acquired, chronic, device-assisted disabilities, and more; and

WHEREAS; individuals with disabilities are valued members of communities across the state, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 1 million Wisconsinites identify as having a disability; and

WHEREAS; disability should in no way diminish one's right to independence, self-determination, or engagement with society, but rather should be a celebrated aspect of one's personhood; and

WHEREAS; while the disability community has been fighting for equity and inclusion for generations, segregation on the basis of ability persists, depriving individuals with disabilities of full participation in society and coming at a great cost both to those with disabilities who desire to live independent and fulfilling lives and to their communities that miss out on the rich talents and experiences that those with disabilities have to offer; and

WHEREAS; the creation of equitable and inclusive environments is a matter of social justice and must be the shared responsibility of every person, regardless of ability, in order for true change to occur; and

WHEREAS; we must recognize the value and intersectionality of the disability experience in our lives, acknowledge and address the barriers presented to individuals with disabilities in society, and appreciate that diversity makes the state stronger; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin celebrates the countless talents, experiences, and contributions of individuals with disabilities and reaffirms its commitment to take meaningful action to build a state that is inclusive to all;

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

DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

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 30th day of June 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State