

WHEREAS;the state of mental health in Wisconsin is a quiet, burgeoning crisis, and addressing mental health and ensuring that every person has access to quality, affordable, and culturally relevant services is essential to the overall health and well-being of all Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin recognizes that there are many factors that can impact an individual’s mental health and their ability to access care—including, but not limited to, discrimination and bias based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religion, disability status, geographic location, and nation of origin—and that these factors intersect and compound one another, and can result in lower quality of care, lack of or inadequate health insurance, and stigma; and

WHEREAS; the burden carried by Black, Indigenous, and people of color, or BIPOC communities, often also includes stress from the anticipation of discrimination and violence in everyday life, including in healthcare settings, which can contribute to depression, anxiety, and other mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS; beginning in 2005, activists Bebe Moore Campbell and Linda Wharton-Boyd advocated for and succeeded in establishing July as Bebe Moore Campbell National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month—now known as BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month—which was formally recognized in 2008; and

WHEREAS; research suggests that the number of individuals within BIPOC communities who seek care for mental health is far lower than their white peers, and as a state, Wisconsin has a long way to go in addressing racial disparities, from health outcomes to incarceration rates to wages and educational outcomes; and

WHEREAS; it is essential to recognize the importance of promoting practices that support health equity, which means ensuring that high-quality and culturally relevant resources and services are affordable and accessible for every Wisconsinite; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to promoting public awareness of mental health challenges, improving access to mental health treatment and services in communities of color, eliminating existing barriers to healthcare access, and prioritizing the behavioral and mental health needs of those most disproportionately affected;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim July 2026 as

BIPOC MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS 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 15th day of June 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State