

WHEREAS; with roots tracing back to 1958, Deaf Awareness Month brings visibility to the unique needs of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind communities around the world; and

WHEREAS; according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, approximately one in eight people in the United States ages 12 or older experience hearing loss, including many Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; providing access to appropriate services and accommodations, including captioning services, hearing aids and other listening devices, support service providers, interveners, and interpreters who serve as a bridge to communication, allows Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind Wisconsinites the opportunity for full participation in all aspects of society, including education, employment, recreation, and community; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Educational Services Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, which operates within the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, is a vital educational and support resource for Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind youth, their families, and service providers; and

WHEREAS; further, Wisconsin’s Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, which operates within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, is a critical resource and works to address the unique needs of Wisconsin’s Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind communities by offering assistance with healthcare benefits, sharing informative demographic research, outlining the rights and laws protecting the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind community, providing information on mental health services in their areas, and more; and

WHEREAS; Deaf Awareness Month celebrates the resilience, strength, and accomplishments of individuals who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deafblind, while committing to increasing public understanding, accessibility, and inclusion for all people and encouraging advocacy for improved resources, services, and opportunities that empower Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblind individuals to live independent, fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated individuals, advocates, and organizations across the state in encouraging an increased awareness of Wisconsin’s Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deafblind communities and building a state that is more welcoming and inclusive of all who call it home;

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

**DEAF 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 26th day of August 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State