

WHEREAS; according to Cleveland Clinic, more than 36 million American adults have some degree of hearing loss, and over half of them are younger than the age of 65, including many Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; providing access to appropriate services and accommodations, including captioning services, hearing aids, and other listening devices, as well as 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, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services’ Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing 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, as well as 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 2026 as

**NATIONAL 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 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State