

WHEREAS; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 48,000 Americans lost their lives to suicide in 2021, including 905 Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; in 2021, suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in the United States, as well as the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34 nationwide; and

WHEREAS; while anyone, regardless of background or identity, can be at risk for suicide, some groups have higher suicide rates than others, such as veterans, those who live in rural areas, Indigenous individuals, and members of the LGBTQ community, and prevention must be a public health priority; and

WHEREAS; suicide prevention requires collaboration and compassion from friends, families, neighbors, coworkers, businesses, government agencies, and community organizations to implement strategies for early intervention, treatment, prevention, and postvention; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion and during the Year of Mental Health, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to increasing access to mental healthcare and services, addressing disparities in access to quality, affordable mental health and healthcare services among underrepresented groups, supporting research into culturally-relevant and evidence-based mental healthcare and services, reducing stigma, implementing best practices regarding suicide prevention in healthcare systems and programs, improving the investigation and reporting of suicide deaths, and spreading awareness of suicide and suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS; suicide and suicide attempts have far-reaching effects on loved ones, friends, family, coworkers, and entire communities, and all Wisconsinites are reminded that everyone can help prevent suicide by raising awareness, promoting healthy connections, supporting crisis services, and creating a safer, healthier world for all; and

WHEREAS; the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides free and confidential services to people in distress, prevention, and crisis resources for those struggling or their loved ones, and best practices for professionals and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling or texting 9-8-8 or visiting 988lifeline.org;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 10 through 16 2023 as

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

and September 2023 as

SUICIDE PREVENTION 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 21st day of September 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State