

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; Usher syndrome is a rare genetic disorder caused by a gene mutation that results in a combination of hearing loss and visual impairment in affected individuals; and

WHEREAS; according to the National Institutes of Health, Usher syndrome is an inherited disorder and is autosomal recessive, meaning that people of all genders are equally likely to have the disorder and equally likely to pass it on to their children; and

WHEREAS; Usher syndrome impacts three major senses in the body—vision, hearing, and balance—and is characterized by progressive vision loss due to retinitis pigmentosa, hearing loss that is either congenital or progressive, and balance issues resulting from vestibular dysfunction; and

WHEREAS; there are three clinical types of Usher syndrome, distinguished by the severity of symptoms, the age at which they first appear, and several different genetic types, which can only be determined through DNA testing; and

WHEREAS; Usher syndrome is a leading genetic cause of combined deafness and blindness, and while treatments, including visual rehabilitation, hearing aids, and the teaching of non-auditory languages, can help combat symptoms, the condition currently has no cure; and

WHEREAS; in addition to life-altering symptoms, those affected by Usher syndrome may also suffer from depression, anxiety, isolation, and loss of independence; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins all affected individuals, families, and dedicated advocates and individuals, including the Usher Syndrome Coalition, in raising awareness of the disorder, supporting all those affected by Usher syndrome, and encouraging research into improved treatments and therapies;


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

USHER SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

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 5th day
of September 2023.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State