

WHEREAS; human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that compromises the immune system and can potentially lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in affected individuals; and

WHEREAS; while Wisconsin recognizes the disparate impact of HIV/AIDS on the LGBTQ community and communities of color, HIV/AIDS can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, geographic location, income level, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS; more than 50 percent of people living with HIV in the United States are 50 or older, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 3,779 new HIV diagnoses in individuals 55 and older in 2022 alone; and

WHEREAS; there are many factors that can contribute to an older adult not being tested for or diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, including a lack of awareness of symptoms and risk factors; and

WHEREAS; while HIV/AIDS can have adverse effects on an individual's physical health, it is also important to recognize that individuals, especially older adults living with chronic, life-threatening conditions, can also often battle depression, suicidal thoughts, and other mental health challenges, requiring support and understanding from healthcare providers, family, friends, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS; while HIV has no cure, it is essential to understand that advances in medicine have led to effective treatments that prevent the progression of the disease, lower the HIV in the blood to undetectable levels, and improve quality of life for individuals who are affected; and

WHEREAS; National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day aims to highlight the complex issues related to HIV prevention, care, and treatment for aging and older adults in the country; and

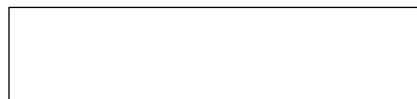
WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins all older individuals affected by HIV/AIDS, their families and loved ones, and advocates in raising awareness of the condition and its effects on the aging population and in embracing hope for quicker diagnoses, more advanced treatments, and a cure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 18 through 2024 as

NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AND AGING 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 10th day of September 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State