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; according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, more than half of people living with HIV in Wisconsin are 50 or older; and

WHEREAS; many factors can contribute to older adults not being tested for or diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, such as a lack of awareness of symptoms and risk factors, as well as social stigmas around the virus; 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; 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 2026 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 4th day of September 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State