

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; 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 and the age at which they first appear, and several different genetic types, which can only be determined through DNA testing; and

WHEREAS; according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, Usher syndrome is the most common condition that affects both hearing and vision, 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 organizations 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 21 2024 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 10th day of September 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State