

# 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*; 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