

WHEREAS; embracing the skills, talents, abilities, and perspectives of all people is essential to building a diverse and inclusive workforce; and

WHEREAS; while the Americans with Disabilities Act represented a critical step forward for the disability community in the U.S. by requiring that employers provide reasonable accommodations so that all individuals, regardless of ability, can access the areas and resources they need, the disability community still faces pervasive barriers to quality employment across the state and country; and

WHEREAS; the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), through the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), partners with employers across the state to help individuals with disabilities obtain, retain, and advance in competitive employment; and

WHEREAS; over the past 10 federal fiscal years, the DVR has helped nearly 36,000 individuals with disabilities achieve their employment goals through individualized services tailored to their strengths and needs; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin also continues to advance innovative approaches that help individuals with disabilities obtain and maintain meaningful employment, including Project SEARCH, which has provided workforce training to nearly 2,100 individuals with disabilities since its launch during the 2008-09 school year; and

WHEREAS; consistent with this year’s theme, “Celebrating Value and Talent,” Wisconsin recognizes the value and talent people with disabilities bring to workplaces and communities everywhere and reaffirms its commitment to expanding access to quality employment for all workers, including workers with disabilities; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins DWD in celebrating the essential contributions of workers with disabilities and reaffirms its commitment to expanding opportunities that promote self-sufficiency, independent living, and equitable employment for Wisconsinites of all abilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 2026 as

**NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS
MONTH**

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 24th day of September 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State