

WHEREAS; an ostomy is a type of surgery that creates an opening, or stoma, in the abdomen that allows for the removal of bodily waste when a person has lost the normal function of the digestive or urinary systems; and

WHEREAS; an ostomy may be necessary for a variety of reasons, including birth defects, colorectal cancer, bladder cancer, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, and many other medical conditions; and

WHEREAS; with about 100,000 new ostomy procedures performed each year, approximately 725,000 to 1 million Americans have an ostomy; and

WHEREAS; ostomy or continent diversion surgery can occur at any age and affect people from all cultural backgrounds, and public education and awareness are vital to fighting stigma and ensuring all those who are living with an ostomy are treated with respect and dignity in all facets of life; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins individuals, families, and dedicated advocates and organizations in increasing public acceptance of ostomy and continent diversion surgery and helping others to better understand that not all disabilities are visible;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 3 2026 as

OSTOMY 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 29th day of September 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State