WHEREAS; coming out, which is the public self-acknowledgment of belonging to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer (LGBTQ) community, is recognized by many as a significant life experience, often transforming the loneliness and self-denial that can come with concealing one's identity into the fulfillment of being true to oneself and claiming dignity, empowerment, and self-respect, as well as support from others; and

WHEREAS; founded in 1988 to celebrate the anniversary of the second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, National Coming Out Day is observed every year on October 11 as a day of self-affirmation and awareness of LGBTQ issues, as well as a celebration of identity and the growth of the LGBTQ movement over the years; and

WHEREAS; generations of LGBTQ Wisconsinites and Americans have worked to overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges and adversity, combating social stigma, demanding visibility and representation, and demonstrating incredible resilience and joy; and

WHEREAS; while the state has taken critical steps toward achieving true equality for all Wisconsinites, there is still considerable work to be done to ensure that all LGBTQ-identifying Wisconsinites—and transgender individuals and LGBTQ people of color, in particular—are treated equitably and with dignity under the law in Wisconsin and across the country, and the state continues its work to affirm and defend the rights of LGBTQ individuals in the face of hate, discrimination, and bigotry; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins community advocates and organizations across the state in reaffirming that every Wisconsinite deserves to stand boldly in their truth without fear of persecution, judgment, or discrimination;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 11 2026 as

NATIONAL COMING OUT 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 9th day of October 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State