

WHEREAS; the term invisible disability was created and defined by the Invisible Disabilities Association (IDA) and establishes invisible disabilities as disabilities that are not outwardly perceivable and, therefore, can cause the affected individual to struggle with little acknowledgment from the outside world; and

WHEREAS; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that one in four adults live with a disability, many of which are considered invisible or hidden; and

WHEREAS; disabilities, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, and injuries can all be considered invisible disabilities and can range from minor impairments to conditions that are completely disabling; and

WHEREAS; many individuals with invisible disabilities face criticism and are accused of faking or exaggerating their conditions, which can result in a lack of funding for necessary programs and research, accommodations, medical resources, and overall support for those with invisible disabilities; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins the disability community in raising awareness of invisible disabilities and working to educate, uplift, and connect individuals with invisible disabilities so that these conditions are no longer invisible;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 15 through 21 2023 as

INVISIBLE DISABILITIES WEEK

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 13th day of October 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State