

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to diverse, vibrant, and resilient lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities (LGBTQ), including talented, bright, and courageous LGBTQ kids and youth; and

WHEREAS; members of the LGBTQ community in Wisconsin and across the nation have collectively worked to overcome discrimination on the basis of gender and sexuality, intersected by race, ability, and class, for generations, combating social stigma, demanding visibility and representation, and demonstrating exceptional strength; and

WHEREAS; despite the remarkable progress the LGBTQ community has fought for and secured over the course of generations, LGBTQ youth in Wisconsin still face harassment, including at school, with the majority of LGBTQ youth reporting they experienced bullying and negative comments from fellow students because of their identity, according to the 2021 GLSEN National School Climate survey of Wisconsin students; and

WHEREAS; there has also been a troubling increase in anti-LGBTQ legislation introduced in Wisconsin and in state legislatures across the country, including efforts to restrict life-saving healthcare for transgender and gender non-conforming kids and prohibit transgender students from participating in athletic teams that correspond with their gender—legislation and rhetoric that only harms kids’ mental health, emboldens hate and violence, and threatens the safety and dignity of LGBTQ people; and

WHEREAS; LGBTQ youth in Wisconsin are already facing a mental health crisis, and according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey report, in 2021, about 70 percent of LGBTQ students experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, and nearly 25 percent of LGBTQ students attempted suicide; and

WHEREAS; every kid in Wisconsin, including LGBTQ kids, deserves access to a high-quality education in a safe, supportive, and affirming school environment; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin joins LGBTQ kids, families, and advocates in committing to combatting hateful rhetoric and policies that target LGBTQ kids and families and to continue working to ensure that all LGBTQ youth are treated with fairness, respect, and dignity in school and elsewhere;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 17 2023 as

RISE UP FOR LGBTQ YOUTH 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 16th day of October 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State