

WHEREAS; laryngeal cleft is a rare birth defect marked by a gap in the tissue between the larynx and esophagus, causing food and liquids to inadvertently enter the trachea and lungs; and

WHEREAS; according to Cleveland Clinic, laryngeal cleft likely develops during the first few months of fetal development and can be classified into four main types depending on severity and depth of the tissue gap; and

WHEREAS; symptoms of laryngeal cleft may include choking or coughing during feedings, difficulty swallowing, abnormal breathing sounds, behavioral and sleeping issues, lack of weight gain, aspiration, and frequent bouts of pneumonia; and

WHEREAS; often difficult to diagnose due to the placement of the defect not being in plain view, milder forms of laryngeal cleft may not be diagnosed for years after birth and can lead to further health complications; and

WHEREAS; laryngeal cleft may require a variety of treatments, including surgery, depending on type and severity, but with proper treatment, most individuals with laryngeal cleft see minimal to no long-term health impact; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins all affected individuals and their families, as well as dedicated healthcare professionals, advocates, and organizations in spreading awareness of laryngeal cleft and embracing hope that increased public and medical knowledge will lead to timely diagnoses and treatment options;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 23 2025 as

LARYNGEAL CLEFT 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 20th day of October 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State