WHEREAS; social isolation and loneliness are widespread problems across the country, with over half of all Americans experiencing measurable levels of loneliness; and

WHEREAS; while people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities can experience social isolation and loneliness, research shows that older adults and people with disabilities—especially those with intersecting marginalized identities—are more likely to experience high levels of loneliness; and

WHEREAS; research shows social isolation and loneliness can increase the risk for physical, emotional, and psychological health impacts, including increased depressive symptoms, cognitive decline, risk for heart disease, stroke, dementia, and premature death; and

WHEREAS; according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), Wisconsinites have expressed desire for communities and networks to be more socially connected, including individuals and groups, virtual and face-to-face, community events, civic engagements, and establishing communities that are more inclusive and accessible; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection, together with partners across the state and nation, strives to raise awareness of and support social connection policies, initiatives, and activities for older adults and people with disabilities that will have a lasting impact; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin affirms its commitment to supporting all Wisconsinites to understand the value of social connection as a protective factor for health and well-being, and to continue to promote access to and opportunities for social connection throughout the state, and joins advocates and organizations across the public and private sectors to continue to promote access to, raise awareness of, and engage in interventions to improve social connections in the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim November 8 through 14 2026 as

SOCIAL CONNECTION AWARENESS 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 30th day of October 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State