

WHEREAS; the U.S. Surgeon General has classified social isolation and loneliness as a public health crisis, with approximately one in three adults in the U.S. experiencing measurable levels of loneliness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 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; according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 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, Wisconsinites have expressed a desire for their communities to be more socially connected, including through virtual and face-to-face interaction, community events, civic engagement, and establishing communities that are more inclusive of and welcoming to people of all personal characteristics and abilities; and

WHEREAS; the statewide Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection, together with partners across the state and country, strives to raise awareness of and support social connection policies, initiatives, and activities for older adults and individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin affirms its commitment to supporting all Wisconsinites who are experiencing social isolation and loneliness, and older adults and people with disabilities, in particular, and joins advocates and organizations across the public and private sectors in raising awareness of and engaging in interventions to improve social connections across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim November 10 through 16 2024 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 14th day of October 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State