

WHEREAS; the U.S. Surgeon General has classified social isolation and loneliness a public health crisis, 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; 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, premature death, stroke, and dementia; and

WHEREAS; according to the Wisconsin Department of Health (DHS), Wisconsinites have expressed a desire for their communities to be more socially connected, including individuals and groups, virtual and face-to-face, community events, civic engagement, and establishing communities that are more inclusive of and welcoming to people of all personal characteristics and abilities; 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 reduce social isolation and loneliness in the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim November 12 through 18 2023 as

SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS 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 6th day of October 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State