

WHEREAS; Transgender Day of Remembrance began in 1999 as a vigil organized by Gwendolyn Ann Smith to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a Black transgender woman who was murdered in an act of anti-transgender violence the year before; and

WHEREAS; Transgender Day of Remembrance has since been observed in cities throughout the United States, as well as internationally, as a day to mourn, remember, and honor the memories of all transgender and gender nonconforming individuals who have been killed by anti-transgender hatred, prejudice, and violence; and

WHEREAS; according to the Human Rights Campaign, at least 25 transgender and gender nonconforming individuals have lost their lives to violence in 2023, the majority of which have been transgender women of color; and

WHEREAS; official statistics on violent acts against transgender or gender nonconforming individuals likely present underestimates, as these incidences often go unreported, uninvestigated, or otherwise unaddressed due to institutionalized transphobia, racism, and discrimination; and

WHEREAS; transgender and gender nonconforming individuals in Wisconsin, across the country, and around the world have collectively worked to overcome adversity for generations, combating social stigma, demanding visibility, working tirelessly towards equality, and empowering all people to embrace who they are, be true to themselves, and live their most authentic and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS; the past year has seen a significant increase in anti-LGBTQ legislation targeting transgender individuals introduced in state legislatures throughout the United States—including Wisconsin—which only underscores the importance of combatting hateful rhetoric and working to ensure that all LGBTQ people are treated equitably and with dignity under the law in Wisconsin and across the country; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms the right of every Wisconsinite to stand boldly in their truth without fear of persecution, judgment, discrimination, or violence and joins members of the state’s LGBTQ community and allies in condemning violence against transgender and gender nonconforming individuals and in remembering all those who have been so senselessly lost to anti-transgender violence this year and every year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim November 20 2023 as

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

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 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State