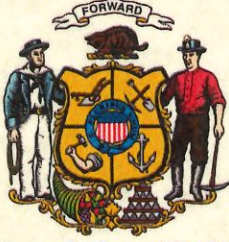


STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that compromises the immune system and can potentially lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in affected individuals; and

WHEREAS; since 1988, World AIDS Day has been observed around the world to unite individuals, organizations, and government entities in the fight against HIV/AIDS, to show support for all those living with HIV/AIDS, and to recognize those who have lost their lives to the disease; and

WHEREAS; while anyone can be affected, regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, geographic location, income, or sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS continues to disproportionately impact communities of color and certain members of the LGBTQ community, including gay and bisexual men and transgender women; and

WHEREAS; the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS estimates that approximately 39 million people are living with HIV around the world, and according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), in 2022, there were more than 8,000 people living with HIV in Wisconsin, including an estimated 1,063 who were unaware of their diagnosis; and

WHEREAS; stigma and fear surrounding HIV can negatively affect an individual's quality of life and self-image, potentially causing them not to disclose exposure factors or their HIV status and to avoid seeking care; and

WHEREAS; it is important to understand that an HIV diagnosis is not a death sentence, that progression of the disease can be prevented, and that people who receive proper care and take medications as directed can lower HIV viral loads to undetectable levels, significantly reducing their likelihood of transmitting the virus while also allowing them to experience an improved quality of life; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin HIV Program, which operates through DHS as the state's leading response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, works to reduce risk, educate the public about prevention, identification, and treatment, and provide assistance to individuals accessing treatment and insurance; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins DHS in standing with those whose lives have been impacted by HIV/AIDS—including members of the LGBTQ community who have borne the brunt of this epidemic for generations—and in reaffirming the state's commitment to improving the accessibility of prevention, education, and treatment resources for all Wisconsinites;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim December 1, 2023, as

WORLD AIDS 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 21st day
of November 2023.

Tony Evers
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By _____ Governor:

Sarah Godlewski
SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State