

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 young cisgender men, communities of color, and members of the LGBTQ community, including gay and bisexual men and transgender women; and

WHEREAS; the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS estimates that in 2023, nearly 40 million people were living with HIV around the world, and according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), in 2023, there were more than 7,300 individuals living with HIV in Wisconsin, including an estimated 1,094 additional individuals 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 avoid seeking care; and

WHEREAS; it is essential to understand that an HIV diagnosis is not a death sentence, that the 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 2024 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 27th day of November 2024.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State