

WHEREAS; human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act, and has affected millions of people of all ages across our country; and

WHEREAS; human trafficking can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, or gender, but vulnerable populations – such as youth who are homeless, unaccompanied, or runaways, LGBTQ youth, young people of color, or kids involved in the child welfare system – are at a higher risk; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that some vulnerable populations may be experiencing a further elevated risk due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS; trafficking is pervasive across our state, but due to its isolating and secretive nature, residents of urban, suburban, and rural communities across Wisconsin are often unaware that trafficking exists within their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS; the long-lasting effects on the physical and emotional wellbeing of people who have experienced the manipulation and exploitation of human traffickers are immeasurable, and we recognize survivors for their resilience; and

WHEREAS; state, county, and local efforts are underway and being coordinated to provide support to help survivors heal from the trauma caused by human trafficking and to address trafficking crimes, and we acknowledge the important work and accomplishments of those working to end human trafficking in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; this month, we are reminded that combating human trafficking is a shared responsibility and that all Wisconsinites must educate themselves on how to recognize the signs of trafficking, report suspicious activities, and support survivors;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim January 2021 as

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS MONTH

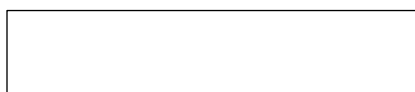
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

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 16th day of December 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State