

WHEREAS; blood donation plays an essential role in ensuring Wisconsin's hospitals and medical centers have a readily available blood supply to treat all residents and visitors, making a sufficient supply a public health priority both locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS; donating blood is particularly important during the winter months, when obstacles such as inclement weather, winter illnesses, and busy holiday schedules may contribute to fewer blood donations; and

WHEREAS; this year in particular, as folks across our state and throughout our world work to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize the role of blood donation in supporting our healthcare delivery system and, with the use of convalescent plasma, even in the development of treatments; and

WHEREAS; less than 10 percent of the U.S. population donate blood, although it is necessary to note that only 38 percent of Americans are actually eligible, due in part to discriminatory policies at the federal level that continue to bar many LGBTQ Americans – and gay men, in particular – from donating blood; and

WHEREAS; one blood donation has the potential to help save the lives of up to three patients, underscoring the importance of constantly replenishing our blood supply through donations and community awareness; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin thanks all blood donors and encourages folks across our state to embody our Wisconsin values of kindness, respect, empathy, and compassion by supporting local blood drives and blood donation efforts this month and throughout the new year;

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

## **NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State