

WHEREAS; the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 15, 1929, and was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, leaving behind a legacy of civil rights advocacy that continues to fundamentally influence the fabric of American culture and society; and

WHEREAS; through his ardent activism and profound oration, Dr. King became a leading icon of the United States' civil rights movement, alongside people like Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, and Wisconsin's Vel Phillips, and his work continues to inspire generations of activists and inform contemporary movements toward racial and social justice; and

WHEREAS; Dr. King dedicated his life to ensuring equal rights for all people through nonviolent protest and civil disobedience, and between the years 1957 and 1968, wrote five books and various articles, delivered countless speeches, and traveled over six million miles to address injustice at its root; and

WHEREAS; Dr. King's legacy, the numerous movements he led, and the seminal works he left behind – such as his “I Have a Dream” and “I've Been to the Mountaintop” speeches and his written works, including “Letter from Birmingham Jail” and “Pilgrimage to Nonviolence” – laid the foundation for a collective recognition of structural inequality as well as contemporary advocacy toward the full realization of equity and justice for all people; and

WHEREAS; as we reflect on Dr. King's life and lasting legacy, we recognize that many of the injustices and inequities that he worked to address have nevertheless remained deeply entrenched in our country's culture and institutions, and we are reminded that there is much work left to be done to eradicate all forms of institutionalized discrimination, prejudice, and oppression in our state and our country; and

WHEREAS; each year, the state of Wisconsin honors the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by hosting the oldest state ceremony celebrating his life and work, and this year's theme is “Together as One”; and

WHEREAS; today, on this federal holiday, the state of Wisconsin rejects bigotry and intolerance in all its manifestations and reaffirms its commitment to addressing pervasive institutional inequities and expanding opportunity and inclusion for Wisconsinites of all cultural backgrounds and identities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim January 18, 2021, as

## **THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State