

WHEREAS; according to the National Institutes of Health, there are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions that are considered rare, affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans; and

WHEREAS; while each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect approximately 25 to 30 million Americans, including many Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected, and while hundreds of drugs and biologics have been approved for the treatment of rare diseases according to the Food and Drug Administration, millions of Americans are still living with rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and

WHEREAS; individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and

WHEREAS; while the public is familiar with some rare diseases, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of funding research and raising public awareness to support the search for treatments; and


WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins the National Organization for Rare Disorders in spreading awareness of rare diseases and supporting all affected individuals, and their families, in our state and across our country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim February 28, 2021, as

## **RARE DISEASE 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State