

WHEREAS; from pregnancy to childbirth to postpartum and beyond, ensuring the health and wellness of all mothers and babies in Wisconsin is a priority for our state; and

WHEREAS; despite advances in medical science and technology, pregnancy-related complications and deaths continue to occur at high levels in Wisconsin, with social determinants of health, mental health, violence, and substance use disorders as significant contributors; and

WHEREAS; state and national health data tell us that disparities in maternal health and health outcomes persist along racial lines, meaning that, for example, Black mothers in Wisconsin are five times more likely than their white peers to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth; and

WHEREAS; these disparities in health outcomes are not the consequence of individual habits or poor choices, and we must confront the need for increased access to quality maternal healthcare and education if we want to build a healthier Wisconsin for all; and

WHEREAS; we recognize the need to improve our maternal care systems, which is why, in addition to signing a state budget that made advancements in our state's maternal health practices, like expanding postpartum eligibility for BadgerCare from 60 days to 90 days, Wisconsin is proud to have a longstanding multidisciplinary Maternal Mortality Review Team tasked with reviewing all maternal deaths, developing prevention recommendations and strategies, and increasing public and professional awareness of the incidence of pregnancy-related deaths; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins maternal health advocates, organizations, medical professionals, families, and researchers across our state in increasing public and professional awareness of maternal health issues, supporting our state's mothers and babies, promoting initiatives to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality, and eliminating existing disparities in access to care and health outcomes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim March 2022 as

## **MATERNAL HEALTH 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 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State