

WHEREAS; the developmental disability experience of 7.4 million people in the United States, including one in six kids between the ages of three and 17, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is a natural part of life and is an important part of the rich diversity of the state and country; and

WHEREAS; as creators and artists, employees and entrepreneurs, community leaders and elected officials, and supportive family members, friends, and neighbors, Wisconsinites with developmental disabilities are valued members of communities across the state; and

WHEREAS; Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month has been recognized annually in March since its first official designation in 1987, and this summer, the United States will celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibited discrimination against all Americans with disabilities and codified the protection of their civil rights; and

WHEREAS; while progress has been made to support Wisconsinites with developmental disabilities and celebrate their many contributions, more work needs to be done to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities are treated equitably and with dignity; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to realizing the full promise of hope, freedom, and equality envisioned by the ADA and the laws of the state and joins individuals with developmental disabilities, advocates, and dedicated organizations in working to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities can access the full range of choices and opportunities available to live their most independent and fulfilling lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim March 2023 as

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

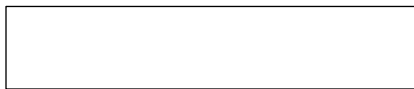
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

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 27th day of February 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State