

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*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 the 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 challenges, violence, and substance use disorders as significant contributors; and

*WHEREAS*; state and national health data identify that disparities in maternal health and health outcomes persist along racial lines, and that Black mothers in Wisconsin are five times more likely than their white, non-Hispanic 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 can only be rectified through increased access to quality maternal healthcare and education, particularly in communities of color and among other historically underserved populations; and

*WHEREAS*; the need to improve the state's maternal care systems has never been greater, which is why the governor's biennial budget proposal includes initiatives to support positive outcomes for all mothers and babies across the state, including expanding postpartum coverage under Medicaid and supporting grants for maternal and infant mortality prevention; and

*WHEREAS*; 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 the governor's biennial budget proposal also provides funding to add two more full-time positions to support maternal mortality review; and

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

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

## MATERNAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to 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 March 2023.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State