

WHEREAS; the vast majority of people currently serving sentences in Wisconsin's prisons and jails will transition back into communities throughout our state, joining the thousands of formerly incarcerated individuals who are released with criminal records every year; and

WHEREAS; formerly incarcerated individuals face numerous challenges that include finding employment, housing, healthcare, and transportation, and these challenges may contribute to higher recidivism rates as well as health, social, and security concerns; and

WHEREAS; helping people with criminal records become productive members of society benefits all Wisconsin families and communities in countless ways, from preventing and reducing crime to improving overall health and safety across our state; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that federal, state, and local leaders must work to establish policies that support individuals who return to their communities after serving time in prison, jail, or under custodial supervision, which is why the governor's 2021-23 budget proposal includes, among other provisions, the expansion of our state's earned release program to include educational, vocational, and treatment programs that are evidence-based to reduce recidivism; and

WHEREAS; organizations across our state and country, including Clean Slate Milwaukee and Dream Corps JUSTICE, are working tirelessly in our communities to facilitate a better transition for people from incarceration or supervision back into their communities by coordinating existing resources, identifying resource gaps, and advocating on behalf of individuals with criminal records; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that collaboration between government, educational institutions, employers, faith-based and community-based organizations, and formerly incarcerated individuals is essential to this work and creates the prosocial support systems necessary for successful a transition; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and organizations throughout our state in raising public awareness of the issues and challenges faced by formerly incarcerated individuals as they re-enter their communities and in working to connect justice-involved individuals with the resources and services they need to be successful;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim March 2, 2021, as

DAY OF EMPATHY

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 3rd day of March 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State