

WHEREAS; originally conceived of by Booker T. Washington in 1915, April has been officially observed across the United States as National Minority Health Month since 2001; and

WHEREAS; National Minority Health Month is an inclusive effort to recognize and raise awareness of the unique health needs, challenges, and disparities facing Black, Hispanic, Latinx, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Indigenous, and all communities of color, and to encourage action through health education, early detection, and control of disease complications; and

WHEREAS; communities of color make up 20 percent of Wisconsin's total population, and significant disparities in health and healthcare persist, leading to imbalances in healthcare, social, and economic costs that result in lower life expectancies and reduced quality of life; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that Wisconsin is among the worst states in our nation when it comes to disparities in birth outcomes, and that inequities in health begin before birth and are perpetuated by factors such as family income, place of residence, ability to access affordable healthcare, lack of or inadequate health insurance, and racism, bias, and discrimination in treatment settings; and

WHEREAS; the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored these underlying health and social inequities, with state and national data demonstrating that racial minority groups are at an increased risk of greater economic consequences, more severe illness, and death from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS; racism is a public health crisis, which is why the Governor's Health Equity Council was established by Executive Order #17 in March 2019 to bring together a diverse group of community stakeholders to intentionally address factors that exacerbate health disparities and create a comprehensive plan to achieve long-lasting and equitable health outcomes for all Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; this year's National Minority Health Month theme, "#VaccineReady," reflects the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on communities of color in our state and country, and highlights the importance of getting vaccinated in these communities in particular; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Governor's Health Equity Council, along with dedicated individuals and organizations throughout our state, in reaffirming our commitment to increasing access to quality healthcare and education in communities of color, working toward the elimination of existing disparities in healthcare and health outcomes, and ensuring the overall well-being of all Wisconsinites;

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

NATIONAL MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

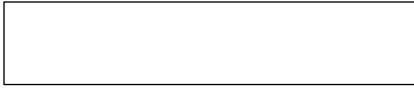
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

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 7th day of April 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State