

WHEREAS; rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment harm people and communities across Wisconsin and, according to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, one in three women, one in six men, and nearly half of transgender adults in our state will experience sexual violence at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS; approximately one in ten children in the United States will be sexually abused before the age of 18, and sexual harassment and assault remain pervasive issues on college campuses nationwide, with one in five women and one in 16 men experiencing sexual assault during their time in college; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that members of the LGBTQ community experience higher rates of sexual violence than their heterosexual peers and that women of color are disproportionately impacted by sexual violence, and have long experienced harm by systemic responses that are rooted in white supremacy and racism; and

WHEREAS; it is clear that we cannot end sexual violence without ending racism and all forms of interpersonal and institutionalized oppression, and our state commends the organizations led by Black, Indigenous, and people of color that have been at the forefront of the anti-sexual violence movement for decades; and

WHEREAS; as technology has evolved to become a major part of our everyday lives, our awareness of the ways it can be used to bully, threaten, and commit abuse has grown as well, with terms such as “sextortion,” “revenge porn,” and “doxing” being added to our lexicon and representing just a fraction of the ways that consent and boundaries can be violated online; and

WHEREAS; the theme of this year’s National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, “We Can Build Safe Online Spaces,” encourages folks to learn how to practice consent online, keep kids safe from abuse, and participate in respectful online communities; and

WHEREAS; this month, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the state of Wisconsin joins survivors and advocates across our state in raising public awareness about the prevalence of sexual violence, educating communities on how to prevent it, and calling on corporate leaders and policy makers to implement and enforce systems and laws that ensure survivors can obtain justice and offenders are held accountable;

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

SEXUAL ASSAULT 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 24th day of March 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State