

WHEREAS; according to the National Missing Persons and Unidentified (NamUs) database, which is used nationwide by medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officials, and the general public to identify and locate missing persons, 600,000 individuals go missing in the United States every year; and

WHEREAS; approximately 2,300 Americans are reported missing every day, not including those Americans who go missing while in other countries, those who have disappeared and were never reported missing, or those who are experiencing homelessness and their children; and

WHEREAS; as of the end of 2020, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center contained a total of 89,637 active missing persons records and, according to NamUs, there are currently 179 missing persons and 50 unidentified persons from Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that there is an epidemic of Indigenous women and girls being abducted, trafficked, and murdered in the United States, yet these incidences often go unreported, uninvestigated, or unaddressed, which is why the Wisconsin Department of Justice established the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force to examine the factors that contribute to these injustices, understand the roles that federal, state, and tribal jurisdictions play, and improve and implement data collection and reporting methods; and

WHEREAS; every missing person deserves to be found—no matter how long they have been missing or what the circumstances are—and many families and friends of missing people rely on help from the public and media to locate their loved ones; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Wisconsin Missing Persons Advocacy, Inc., and dedicated individuals and organizations throughout our state in raising awareness and working with the public, law enforcement, and search and rescue agencies to advocate for missing persons and support their families;

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

## **STATEWIDE MISSING PERSONS 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 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State