

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 Black, Hispanic and Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander, Indigenous, and all communities of color experience, and to encourage action through robust partnerships, health education, early detection, and control of disease complications; and

WHEREAS; communities of color make up 20 percent of Wisconsin's total population and, within these communities, significant disparities in health outcomes and access to healthcare persist, resulting in increased healthcare, social, and economic costs, lower life expectancies, and reduced quality of life among people of color in our state; and

WHEREAS; while we recognize that Wisconsin is among the worst states in our nation when it comes to disparities in maternal and birth outcomes by race—with Black mothers in Wisconsin, for example, being five times more likely than their white peers to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth—we also acknowledge that inequities in health begin before birth, and that to effectively and meaningfully change these realities, we must address the root causes of these issues; and

WHEREAS; disparities in health outcomes are not the consequence of individual choices but, rather, reflect centuries of systemic racism and are perpetuated by factors such as family income, place of residence, educational opportunities, ability to access affordable healthcare, lack of or inadequate health insurance, and racism, bias, and discrimination in treatment settings; and

WHEREAS; the ongoing coronavirus pandemic has only exacerbated underlying health and social inequities, with data demonstrating that communities of color are at an increased risk of greater economic consequences, more severe illness, and death from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS; this year's National Minority Health Month theme, "Give Your Community a Boost!," reflects the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus pandemic on communities of color in our state and country, and highlights the continued importance of COVID-19 vaccination—including boosters—in these communities in particular; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, along with dedicated individuals and organizations throughout our state, in reaffirming its commitment to expanding access to quality healthcare and education in communities of color, working toward the elimination of existing disparities in healthcare and health outcomes, centering health equity in its work so that all Wisconsinites—regardless of race, ethnicity, or ZIP code—have the opportunity to be as healthy as possible, and ensuring the overall health and well-being of all Wisconsinites;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 2022 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 8th day of April 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State