

WHEREAS; whether it is in the workplace, at school, home, or anywhere else, sexual violence is pervasive, harming individuals and communities across Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; according to the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey's most recent report on sexual violence, more than half of women and nearly one-third of men in the United States have experienced sexual violence at some point in their lives; and

WHEREAS; approximately one in 10 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 the Association of American University's Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct reporting that around one in four women undergraduates and nearly seven percent of undergraduate men experience sexual assault during their time in college; and

WHEREAS; members of the LGBTQ community experience higher rates of sexual violence than their heterosexual peers and people of color are also disproportionately impacted, having long experienced harm by systemic responses that are rooted in racism; and

WHEREAS; sexual violence cannot be addressed without addressing racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of interpersonal and institutionalized oppression; and

WHEREAS; the theme of this year's Sexual Assault Awareness Month, "Drawing Connections: Prevention Demands Equity," encourages individuals, communities, organizations, and institutions across the state and country to make meaningful systemic changes that will build equity and respect in the effort to prevent sexual violence; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin honors and joins all victims and survivors of sexual violence, advocates, and dedicated organizations in raising awareness of the prevalence of sexual violence, expanding access to preventative education, and calling on corporate leaders and policymakers to implement and enforce systems and laws that ensure justice and accountability;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 2023 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 17th day of March 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State