

WHEREAS; according to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) database, which is used by law enforcement, medical professionals, and the public alike to identify and locate missing and unidentified individuals, approximately 600,000 individuals go missing and 4,400 unidentified bodies are recovered in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS; over the course of 2022, more than 500,000 missing person records were entered into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center (NCIC), and as of the end of the year, the NCIC contained a total of 97,127 active missing person records; and

WHEREAS; according to NamUs, there are currently 188 missing persons and 46 unidentified persons from Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; women and children of color make up a disproportionate number of missing and unidentified person cases, and individuals experiencing homelessness, unsafe living situations, individuals with mental health challenges, individuals with disabilities, undocumented immigrants, sex workers, and human trafficking victims are also at greater risk; and

WHEREAS; 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 role that federal, state, and Tribal jurisdictions play, and implement and improve 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 surrounding their disappearance might be, 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 the 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 2023 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 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State