

WHEREAS; from pregnancy to childbirth to postpartum and beyond, ensuring the health and wellness of all mothers and babies is a priority for our state; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin recognizes that structural racism, discrimination, and bias embedded in our culture and institutions disproportionately prevent Black mothers from receiving the proper prenatal and postnatal care they need, resulting in unacceptable disparities in maternal health outcomes; and

WHEREAS; Black mothers in Wisconsin are five times more likely than their white peers to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, and we must acknowledge the racism in our maternal healthcare system that contributes to this and other disparities; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, we affirm the need to improve our maternal care systems and invest in improving Black maternal health outcomes, in particular, which is why the Badger Bounceback 2021-23 budget proposal includes the extension of postpartum Medicaid eligibility, the expansion of Medicaid to cover doula services, recommendations to protect the health, safety, and rights of incarcerated pregnant people, and an investment of nearly \$30 million in a “Healthy Women, Healthy Babies” initiative to improve women’s health and birth outcomes in our state, including \$3.5 million for organizations working to reduce disparities related to maternal and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins advocates, medical professionals, elected officials, and dedicated individuals, families, and organizations across our state in spreading awareness of maternal health issues facing Black mothers, supporting our state’s Black mothers and babies, promoting initiatives to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality, and working to eliminate existing disparities and inequities in our maternal healthcare system;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 11 through 17, 2021, as

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

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 14th day of April 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State