

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; ensuring the health and wellness of all mothers and babies—from pregnancy and childbirth to postpartum and beyond—must be top a priority for our state; and

*WHEREAS*; the state of Wisconsin recognizes that structural racism, discrimination, and bias embedded in our society and institutions disproportionately prevent Black mothers from receiving the proper prenatal and postnatal care they need, resulting in disparate maternal health outcomes which can have tragic consequences; and

*WHEREAS*; Black mothers in Wisconsin are five times more likely than their white peers to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, underscoring the urgent need to improve our maternal care systems and invest in improving Black maternal health outcomes; 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 – 17, 2022, 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 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022.

TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State