

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 a top priority for the state; and

WHEREAS; racism, discrimination, and bias that are embedded in 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; a review of pregnancy-related maternal mortality from 2006 to 2010 found that Black mothers in Wisconsin were five times more likely than their white peers to die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth, underscoring the urgent need to improve maternal care systems and invest in improving Black maternal health outcomes in the state and throughout the country; and

WHEREAS; the 2023-25 biennial budget proposal includes initiatives to support positive outcomes for mothers and babies across the state, including the expansion of postpartum coverage under Medicaid and support for grants for maternal and infant mortality prevention; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim April 11 – 17, 2023, 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 10th day of April 2023.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State