

WHEREAS; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as ALS or “Lou Gehrig’s Disease,” is a fatal neurodegenerative disease characterized by cell degeneration in the spinal cord; and

WHEREAS; initial symptoms of ALS typically include muscle weakness in the extremities and, as the disease progresses, symptoms progress to difficulty swallowing, talking, and breathing, followed by muscle atrophy, with the affected individual eventually becoming a functional quadriplegic; and

WHEREAS; the disease does not affect mental capacity, so individuals with ALS remain alert and aware of their loss of motor functions; and

WHEREAS; ALS has no known cause, means of prevention, or cure, and individuals diagnosed with the disease only survive two to five years, on average, from the time of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS; while ALS can strike anyone, it most commonly develops in folks between the ages of 40 and 70, and research indicates that military veterans are twice as likely to develop the disease; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins ALS patients and advocates in spreading awareness and embracing hope that advancements in science and medicine will soon lead to a deeper understanding of the disease, new treatments to enhance quality of life, and a cure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim May 2021 as

## **ALS 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State