

WHEREAS; according to the American Stroke Association, stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Wisconsin's Coverdell Stroke Program report that strokes kill approximately 150,000 Americans, including approximately 2,500 Wisconsinites, each year; and

WHEREAS; a third of all Americans are living with at least one of the most common controllable causes of stroke, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity, and diabetes; and

WHEREAS; Black adults in the United States have a higher rate of stroke incidence than white adults, and the mortality rate from stroke is higher among individuals living in rural settings than those living in urban settings, underscoring the influence of factors like access to care, food and housing insecurity, and structural racism in driving the incidence of stroke; and

WHEREAS; new and effective treatments have been developed to treat and minimize the severity and damaging effects of stroke when administered as soon as possible after the onset of symptoms; and

WHEREAS; while strokes are largely preventable with a healthy lifestyle and adherence to prescribed medications, one in four stroke survivors have a second stroke; and

WHEREAS; further research and education on stroke are essential to advance prevention and treatment efforts for all Wisconsinites and all Americans, including—and especially—those with limited access to healthcare; and

WHEREAS; it is critical that all Wisconsinites be able to recognize and act on the signs and symptoms of stroke, including the B.E.F.A.S.T. (Balance, Eyes, Face, Arm, Speech, and Terrible headache) warning signs, which include sudden loss of balance or coordination, sudden change in vision, sudden weakness on one side of the face or facial droop, sudden arm or leg weakness or numbness, sudden slurred speech, trouble speaking, or trouble understanding speech, and sudden onset of a terrible headache.; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the American Stroke Association's Together to End Stroke® initiative in encouraging all Wisconsinites and all Americans to manage their risk factors, memorize and share the stroke warning signs, and call 911 at the first sign of stroke;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim May 2023 as

## **AMERICAN STROKE 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State