

WHEREAS; scleroderma is a rare autoimmune and rheumatic disease that affects connective tissue throughout the body of an affected individual, causing swelling, skin thickening and tightening, shortness of breath, difficulty swallowing, joint stiffness and pain, and sensitivity to cold, among other symptoms; and

WHEREAS; while available treatments can help ease symptoms and improve the quality of life of affected individuals and their families, scleroderma has no cure; and

WHEREAS; according to the Scleroderma Foundation, an estimated 300,000 individuals are affected by scleroderma in the United States, and 80 percent of scleroderma patients are women; and

WHEREAS; raising public awareness and providing comprehensive and coordinated health services for people with scleroderma is critically important to addressing the complex health needs of affected individuals and achieving positive patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins scleroderma patients, families, and dedicated individuals and organizations across our state in raising awareness of the condition, supporting education and research towards a cure, and encouraging folks to wear teal in support of scleroderma awareness and to participate in awareness-related events;

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

## **SCLERODERMA 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of May 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State