

WHEREAS; from health outcomes to incarceration rates, and the wage gap to educational inequity, Wisconsin is consistently ranked one of the worst states in the nation for racial disparities; and

WHEREAS; the burden carried by people of color in the United States – and by Black and Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), in particular – includes stress from the anticipation of violence in everyday life, including at the hands of the police, that can contribute to depression, anxiety, and other psychosocial problems; and

WHEREAS; while addressing mental health is essential to ensuring the overall health and well-being of every person in our state, our minority communities often face challenges when accessing mental health treatment, among them racism, bias, and discrimination in treatment settings, language barriers, lower quality care, lack of health insurance or inadequate health insurance, and stigma associated with mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS; the institutionalized racism that we see highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic is echoed in every disparate health outcome in Wisconsin – from infant mortality to heart disease and diabetes to mental health – and informs every aspect of our society, including housing, law enforcement, education, healthcare, and mass incarceration; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that there are many distinct factors that can impact mental health, including, but not limited to, an individual's race, ethnicity, gender identity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, religion, disability status, and geographic location, and that these intersect and compound each other; and

WHEREAS; behavioral health equity means ensuring high quality resources are accessible to every Wisconsinite, and especially those most disproportionately impacted; and

WHEREAS; beginning in 2005, activists Bebe Moore Campbell and Linda Wharton-Boyd advocated for and succeeded in establishing July as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, which was first formally recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin affirms its commitment to promoting public awareness of mental health challenges, improving access to mental health treatment and services for BIPOC, and prioritizing the behavioral and mental health needs of those most disproportionately impacted by poor mental health outcomes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim July 2020 as

## **NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH 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 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State