STATE *of* WISCONSIN

OFFICE *of the* GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; preceded by the Civil Rights Acts of 1875, 1957, and 1960 – which were relatively weak, largely unenforced, and, in the case of the 1875 law, struck down by the United States Supreme Court – the watershed Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 2, 1964; and

WHEREAS; born from the tireless advocacy of the civil rights movement, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 sought to outlaw discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, enforce the equal protection of voting rights, and prohibit racial segregation in education, employment, and public accommodations; and

WHEREAS; drawing predominantly on constitutional protections afforded by the Commerce Clause, the 14th Amendment, and the 15th Amendment, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has been upheld and expanded upon by the Supreme Court in numerous landmark decisions, including *Heart of Atlanta Motel, Inc. v. United States* and, most recently, *Bostock v. Clayton County*, which ruled that Title VII of the law secures protections and bars discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace; and

WHEREAS; the Civil Rights Act of 1964 laid the groundwork for every important piece of civil rights legislation that would follow, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Civil Rights Act of 1968, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

WHEREAS; as we reflect on the significance of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, we must lay bare that many of the injustices and inequities that the law intended to address have nevertheless remained deeply entrenched in our country's culture and institutions; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to addressing discrimination of every kind – including racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, religious intolerance, and xenophobia – and all forms of institutionalized prejudice and oppression, and joins all Wisconsinites in taking action to create a more equitable and just society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim July 2, 2020, as the

56TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

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 25th day of June 2020.

Tony Evers

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

Douglas La Follette

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State