

WHEREAS; Gastroschisis is a birth defect characterized by the presence of a hole in the abdominal wall of a developing fetus, resulting in the growth of the intestines outside of the body; and

WHEREAS; it is estimated that approximately one in 2,229 babies in the United States are born with Gastroschisis every year, with roughly the same rate of occurrence in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; while infants born with Gastroschisis often undergo surgery soon after birth to correct the defect, many will experience serious lifelong complications, including failure to thrive, short bowel syndrome, feeding and digestive issues, and multiple organ transplants; and

WHEREAS; Gastroschisis patients and their families often encounter a variety of problems outside of the illness itself, such as a sense of isolation and difficulties obtaining timely diagnoses, finding appropriate treatment options, and affording the few treatments that do exist; and

WHEREAS; since 2018, Avery's Angels Gastroschisis Foundation (AAGF) has been organizing a nationwide observance of Gastroschisis Awareness Day in honor of the founder's son, Avery John Rauen, who passed away from complications of the condition on July 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins AAGF and all patients and their families in spreading awareness, promoting research, and honoring all who are living with or who have lost their lives to Gastroschisis;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim July 30, 2020, as

## **GASTROSCHISIS AWARENESS DAY**

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 29<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State