

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; the state of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) are committed to advocating for the rights, benefits, and financial inclusion of all Wisconsinites with disabilities; and

*WHEREAS*; Achieving a Better Life Experience—or ABLE—accounts are tax-advantaged savings and investment accounts that encourage long-term financial strength and independence and allow qualified Wisconsinites with disabilities and their family members to save money and plan for their futures while maintaining their eligibility for federal public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income benefits and Medicaid; and

*WHEREAS*; funds saved in ABLE accounts can be used for expenses related to living with a disability or disabilities, including education expenses, food, housing, and transportation, which can help improve health, independence, and quality of life; and

*WHEREAS*; contributing to an ABLE account can empower people with disabilities to move from making short-term financial plans to making lifetime financial plans by helping them and their families accumulate wealth, save for larger expenses, and provide the opportunity to pursue additional income; and

*WHEREAS*; throughout our state and country, businesses are prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace, but due to legal restrictions, many employees with disabilities cannot contribute to traditional retirement plans, which only underscores the importance of promoting ABLE accounts as substitute retirement vehicles for employees with disabilities and their families; and

*WHEREAS*; while our state does not currently offer its own ABLE account program, Wisconsinites with disabilities are free to enroll in any other state's program; and

*WHEREAS*; the state of Wisconsin is working in close partnership with the DFI and with other states to expand the number of people who benefit from ABLE programs by making ABLE-related tools and information readily available to all Wisconsinites with disabilities and their families; and

*WHEREAS*; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the DFI in supporting the national effort to raise awareness of ABLE accounts, educating the public on how ABLE accounts can improve quality of life through increased financial stability and independence, and providing information and resources about the ease, use, and significance of ABLE accounts for Wisconsinites with disabilities and their families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 2022 as

## “ABLE TO SAVE” 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2022.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR



By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State