

WHEREAS; women, and especially women of color, have long fought to receive the full rights afforded to their male counterparts in the United States and throughout the world, and throughout history, have been at the center of efforts to pursue social and political change; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has proudly been at the forefront of women's equality movements, as the first state to ratify the 19th Amendment in 1919, for example, yet discrimination and violence on the basis of gender—intersected by race, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other social factors—persist still today; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin recognizes that in order to achieve true equality, all women must be provided protections against discrimination, including protections that ensure meaningful access to the ballot box, fair opportunity in education and employment, equal pay in the workforce, and safety and support at home and in their communities; and

WHEREAS; particularly in light of the recent decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturning *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey* and the ongoing institutional threats towards the bodily autonomy of women throughout our country and around the world, the state of Wisconsin also recognizes the urgent need to protect and expand access to reproductive healthcare for women; and

WHEREAS; first introduced in 1971 and officially designated by the U.S. Congress in 1973, Women's Equality Day is recognized on August 26 as both a celebration of women's suffrage and a symbol of the ongoing struggle for gender equality in our country; and

WHEREAS; as we celebrate the progress we have made in our state, we reaffirm our commitment to working towards equal legal and institutional rights for every woman; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in reflecting on the legacies of the women, including American suffragists and women's rights activists, who have broken barriers, overcome systemic obstacles, and demanded a better, fairer, and more just state and country in the fight for equality for women and girls;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 26 2022 as

## **WOMEN'S EQUALITY 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State