WHEREAS: the State of Wisconsin recognizes that discrimination associated with addiction must be addressed and that we must continue working to address stigma for persons working to overcome substance abuse disorders and addiction, so no one feels shame or disgrace because of a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS: by acknowledging residents who have died or experienced permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose, others will understand the effects of drug overdoses on our communities; and

WHEREAS: many drug overdoses are related to the use of opioids, and opioid overdoses increased by 70 percent from July 2016 through July 2017 in the Midwest region, sparking a public health crisis throughout the country; and

WHEREAS: everyone can save a life by learning about the signs of an opioid overdose, how to administer naloxone, and calling 911; and

WHEREAS: spreading awareness about how to recognize an opioid overdose and what to do in the event of an overdose is the goal of the #HopeActLiveWI campaign of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, which also provides information on the range of support services and resources that exist in our communities; and

WHEREAS: the last day of August is recognized worldwide as a day to acknowledge the grief of families who lost a loved one to a drug overdose and to act to reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim August 31, 2019, as

INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our citizens.

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 23rd day of August 2019.

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State