

WHEREAS; drug abuse and addiction impact quality of life across Wisconsin, negatively affecting the health, relationships, and livelihoods of folks throughout our state and potentially leading to severe injury or death from an overdose; and

WHEREAS; many – though not all – drug overdoses in the United States and in Wisconsin are related to the use of opioids such as heroin, fentanyl, and prescription oxycodone; and

WHEREAS; between July 2016 and July 2017, opioid overdoses increased by 70 percent in the Midwest region, indicative of a growing public health crisis throughout our country; and

WHEREAS; according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), the number of suspected opioid overdoses in the first five months of 2020 has nearly doubled relative to the same period in 2019; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin recognizes that stigma and discrimination associated with substance abuse disorders and addiction must be addressed so that no one ever feels shame for struggling, for having overdosed, or for asking for help; 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 DHS' #HopeActLiveWI campaign, 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 remember those we have lost to a drug overdose, to acknowledge the grief of their families, friends, and communities, and to act to reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths; and

WHEREAS; everyone can save a life by educating themselves on the signs of an overdose, learning how to administer the emergency narcotic overdose reversal drug naloxone, and calling 911;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim August 31, 2020, as

INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE 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 16th day of July 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State