

WHEREAS; substance use disorders 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 a drug 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 drugs laced with opioids, although rates of fatal overdoses involving stimulants, like cocaine, and psychostimulants, like methamphetamine, are increasing; and

WHEREAS; more than 1,200 Wisconsinites died from an opioid-related overdose in 2020 and, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdose deaths increased by almost 30 percent nationwide—and by over 27 percent in Wisconsin—between December 2019 and December 2020; and

WHEREAS; rising rates of drug overdoses are indicative of a growing public health crisis in our state and throughout our country, which has only been exacerbated by the widespread uncertainty, anxiety, and isolation of the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin recognizes that stigma and discrimination associated with substance use 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; the emergency narcotic overdose reversal drug, naloxone, is readily available at hundreds of locations statewide—thanks to the efforts of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and its community partners, including tribal, county, and municipal health departments, pharmacies, and recovery community organizations—and should be part of every Wisconsinite’s first aid kit; and

WHEREAS; the last day of August is recognized worldwide as a day to remember all those we have lost to a drug overdose, to acknowledge the grief of their families, friends, and communities, and to act to prevent drug-related deaths and reduce the stigma that surrounds them; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins DHS in reminding all Wisconsinites that anyone can save a life by being a resource to help those struggling with substance use disorders and addiction, educating themselves on the signs of an overdose, learning how to administer naloxone, and calling 911;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim August 31, 2021, as

## **INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY**

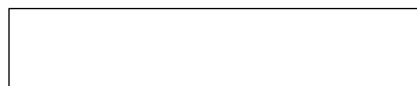
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

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 4<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State