

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 even death; 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, prescription oxycodone, and drugs laced with opioids, although fatal overdoses involving psychostimulants, like cocaine and methamphetamine, are also increasing; and

WHEREAS; more than 1,500 Wisconsinites died from an overdose in 2020, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdose deaths increased by nearly 15 percent nationwide between 2020 and 2021, reaching a record of over 107,600 deaths; 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 ongoing coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin recognizes that individuals who face disparate outcomes in health and healthcare access also face greater challenges to receiving treatment for addiction, and the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to challenging the stigma and discrimination associated with substance use disorders 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 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; every year, 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 2022 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State