

WHEREAS; over 48,000 Americans lost their lives to suicide in 2020, including 888 Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and in Wisconsin, as well as the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34 nationwide; and

WHEREAS; while anyone, regardless of background or identity, can struggle with suicide, we recognize that this tragic issue is disproportionately pervasive among youth, Indigenous individuals, members of the LGBTQ community, and our nation's veterans; and

WHEREAS; it is estimated that more than 90 percent of people who die by suicide have an underlying mental health condition, although often that condition remains undetected, undiagnosed, or not adequately treated; and

WHEREAS; suicide is a serious public health issue in Wisconsin and across the United States, and suicide prevention should be a public health priority both statewide and nationally; and

WHEREAS; every death by suicide directly impacts numerous family members, friends, coworkers, loved ones, and entire communities, and anyone who may be struggling or in need of support should know that they are loved and valued by their communities, and should see that value affirmed in how their communities address suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS; suicide prevention requires collaboration and compassion from friends, families, neighbors, coworkers, businesses, government agencies, and community organizations to implement strategies for early intervention, treatment, prevention, and postvention; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that there is no single cause behind suicide and that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to increasing access to mental healthcare and services, addressing disparities in this access among underrepresented groups, supporting research into culturally relevant and evidence-based mental healthcare and services, reducing stigma, implementing best practices regarding suicide prevention in healthcare systems and programs, improving the investigation and reporting of suicide deaths, and spreading awareness of suicide and suicide prevention; and

WHEREAS; the past year and a half has been especially difficult for many people, and we remind all Wisconsinites that there is always free, confidential support available by calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or by texting HOPELINE to 741741;

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

## **SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH**

and September 5 through 11 as

## **SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State