

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; sickle cell disease, also known as sickle cell anemia, refers to a group of inherited disorders that affect the production and longevity of red blood cells; and

*WHEREAS*; the body of an individual with sickle cell disease produces abnormally shaped red blood cells that resemble a crescent or sickle, and these cells do not live as long as typical round red blood cells, leading to anemia; and

*WHEREAS*; these abnormally shaped red blood cells, or sickle cells, also have the potential to block blood vessels and impede blood flow, resulting in vaso-occlusive crises, which can cause severe pain, organ damage, and other life-threatening complications that often lead to hospitalization; and

*WHEREAS*; sickle cell disease is a chronic condition that can affect any organ, including the heart, kidneys, lungs, liver, and spleen, and research indicates that affected individuals may experience a variety of severe complications, including stroke, infections, pulmonary hypertension, and a shorter life expectancy than the general population; and

*WHEREAS*; since sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder, an individual with the disease is born with two sickle cell genes, one inherited from each parent, and an individual with only one sickle cell gene is considered to have a sickle cell trait that may be passed down; and

*WHEREAS*; the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that sickle cell disease affects approximately 100,000 Americans, including many Wisconsinites, and that both sickle cell disease and sickle cell traits occur disproportionately among Black or African American and Hispanic populations; and

*WHEREAS*; in recent years, the National Institutes of Health have been working on innovative genetic therapies that could someday cure sickle cell disease, and the United States Food and Drug Administration has granted orphan drug designation to sickle cell therapies and, at the end of 2019, accelerated approval for a new treatment for sickle cell disease; and

*WHEREAS*; increased awareness of sickle cell disease is necessary to support research into potentially curative therapies that can improve quality of life for affected individuals while also offering substantial savings on medical costs over their lifetime; and

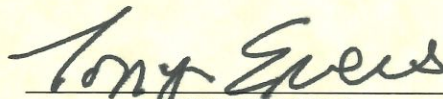
*WHEREAS*; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins individuals with sickle cell disease and their families, along with dedicated medical professionals, advocates, and organizations, in spreading awareness of sickle cell disease and embracing hope that advancements in science and medicine will soon lead to improved treatments and a cure;

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

## SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

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 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2021.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State