

WHEREAS; Usher syndrome is a rare genetic disorder caused by a gene mutation that results in a combination of hearing loss and visual impairment in affected individuals; and

WHEREAS; according to the Usher Syndrome Coalition, Usher syndrome is an inherited disorder that affects an estimated 25,000 people in the United States and more than 400,000 people worldwide; and

WHEREAS; Usher syndrome impacts three major senses in the body—vision, hearing, and balance—and is characterized by progressive vision loss due to retinitis pigmentosa, hearing loss that is either congenital or progressive, and balance issues resulting from vestibular dysfunction; and

WHEREAS; there are three clinical types of Usher syndrome, distinguished by the severity of symptoms and the age at which they first appear, and several different genetic types, which can only be determined through DNA testing; and

WHEREAS; Usher Syndrome is a leading genetic cause of combined deafness and blindness, and while treatments to manage symptoms are available, the condition currently has no cure; and

WHEREAS; because of a lack of public awareness, individuals with Usher syndrome may also suffer from depression, anxiety, isolation, and loss of independence; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins the global Usher syndrome community in raising awareness of the disorder, supporting affected individuals and their families, and encouraging research into improved treatments and therapies;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim September 17 2022 as

## **USHER SYNDROME 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 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State