

WHEREAS; the mitochondria are the cells in our bodies that transform food and oxygen into energy, and when they malfunction, the organs of an affected individual can fail, leading to sickness and even death; and

WHEREAS; mitochondrial disease is often difficult to diagnose because it affects every person differently, and symptoms can potentially include everything from seizures and strokes to blindness and muscle weakness; and

WHEREAS; it is estimated that one in 5,000 individuals has some form of mitochondrial disease, but due to the complexities of the disease, patients often remain undiagnosed or misdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS; as scientific linkages between mitochondrial dysfunction and diseases like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and diabetes continue to be explored, bringing together patients, medical professionals, and resources to make progress on therapies and cures has never been more urgent; and

WHEREAS; founded in 1996, the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation (UMDF) is dedicated to promoting research and education for the diagnosis, treatment, and cure of mitochondrial disease, and to providing support to affected individuals and families; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins UMDF in spreading awareness of mitochondrial disease, empowering those affected and those providing treatments, and working towards quicker diagnoses, improved treatments, and ultimately a cure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim September 18 through 25, 2021, as

## **MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE AWARENESS 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State