

WHEREAS; human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that compromises the immune system and can potentially lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in affected infected individuals; and

WHEREAS; HIV/AIDS can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, geographic location, income level, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS; people aged 50 and older are the fastest growing HIV-positive population in the United States, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reporting that individuals over the age of 50 accounted for 17 percent of new HIV diagnoses, 51 percent of persons living with HIV, and 71 percent of all deaths in persons with HIV in 2018; and

WHEREAS; there are many factors that can contribute to an older adult not being tested for or diagnosed with HIV/AIDS, including a lack of awareness of the signs, symptoms, and risk factors; and

WHEREAS; older adults living with HIV/AIDS often battle depression, and require support and understanding from healthcare providers, family, friends, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS; while HIV has no cure, advances in medicine have led to effective treatments that allow for people diagnosed with the virus to prevent the development of AIDS and live long, full lives; and

WHEREAS; launched in 2008 by The AIDS Institute, National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day aims to highlight the complex issues related to HIV prevention, care, and treatment for aging populations in our country; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins all HIV/AIDS patients, families, and advocates in spreading awareness of the condition and its effects on our aging population, and in embracing hope for quicker diagnoses, more advanced treatments, and a cure;

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

## **NATIONAL HIV/AIDS AND AGING AWARENESS DAY**

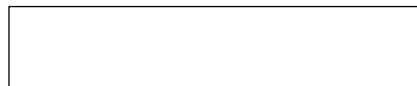
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

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 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State