

WHEREAS; Usher syndrome is a rare genetic disorder caused by a mutation in any one of at least 11 genes that results in a combination of hearing loss and visual impairment in affected individuals; and

WHEREAS; Usher syndrome is an inherited disorder that affects thousands of 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 at least 11 different genetic types, which can only be determined through DNA testing; and

WHEREAS; despite being a leading cause of combined deafness and blindness worldwide, Usher syndrome currently has no cure, and because of a lack of public awareness, affected individuals 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 18, 2021, 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 13th day of August 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State