

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; while our state recognizes the disparate impact of HIV/AIDS on the LGBTQ community and communities of color, HIV/AIDS can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, geographic location, income level, or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS; nearly 50 percent of people living with HIV in the United States are 50 or older, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 3,202 new HIV diagnoses in individuals 55 and older in 2020 alone; 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 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, it is important to understand that an HIV diagnosis is not a death sentence and that advances in medicine have led to effective treatments that prevent the progression of the disease, lower the HIV in the blood to undetectable levels, and improve quality of life for individuals who are diagnosed; 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 and older adults in our country; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins all older individuals affected by HIV/AIDS, their families and loved ones, and advocates in raising 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 2022 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 2nd day of September 2022.

TONY EVERSON, Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State