

WHEREAS; each year, the last full week of September is set aside to recognize and celebrate the hundreds of unique languages, cultures, and traditions of Deaf communities around the world; and

WHEREAS; Deaf and hard of hearing individuals include those who use American Sign Language (ASL) as their primary form of communication as well as those with a range of hearing loss who benefit from hearing aids or other listening devices; and

WHEREAS; communication is a two-way process and communication barriers, such as a lack of interpreters or hearing technology, not only affect Deaf people, but hearing communities, as well; and

WHEREAS; appropriate accommodations or auxiliary aids and services like ASL interpreters and Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) services help ensure effective communication for all people; and

WHEREAS; access to technology solutions provides Deaf Wisconsinites with the opportunity for full participation in all aspects of society, including education, employment, recreation, and community living; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, which operates within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, is a critical resource for Deaf Wisconsinites, and is an effective partner is helping to address the unique needs of Wisconsin's Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and hard of hearing residents; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin celebrates the vibrant Deaf community in our state and encourages all Wisconsinites, regardless of hearing ability, to raise public awareness of this unique cultural and linguistic community and promote equal rights for all Deaf and hard of hearing people;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 19 through 25 2022 as

INTERNATIONAL WEEK OF DEAF PEOPLE

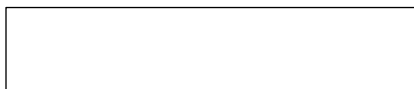
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

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 19th day of August 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State