

WHEREAS; health literacy refers to the capacity to find, comprehend, and utilize information about one's own health to make the best possible health-related decisions; and

WHEREAS; all people can be at risk of misunderstanding health information, particularly if the topic is distressing or complex; and

WHEREAS; healthcare workers and educators recognize that improving overall health and wellness is anchored in the ability to understand and use health information, both at the doctor's office and in everyday life; and

WHEREAS; lack of or inadequate health literacy poses significant challenges to public health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that improving health literacy could prevent nearly one million hospital visits and save the United States over \$25 billion a year; and

WHEREAS; health literacy is a strong predictor of patient health outcomes, and improving health literacy among all Wisconsinites can be a powerful means of preventing or mitigating many chronic and acute conditions; and

WHEREAS; the burden of improving health literacy does not lie only on the individual level, but is instead dependent on the efforts of health professionals, community-based organizations, literacy programs, and local and state governments to support and disseminate accurate, science-based information, resources, services, and programming; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins healthcare providers, educators, researchers, and dedicated advocates and organizations in promoting health literacy in our state and beyond;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 2022 as

WISCONSIN HEALTH LITERACY MONTH

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 23rd day of September 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State