

WHEREAS; mental health conditions are real and prevalent in the lives of people across the United States, including in Wisconsin, with about one in five adults in our country experiencing a mental health condition in any given year, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; and

WHEREAS; addressing mental health and ensuring folks have access to quality, affordable mental health services is essential to the overall health and well-being of every person; and

WHEREAS; mental and behavioral healthcare is healthcare, and receiving treatment for a mental illness should be treated with the same care and importance as receiving treatment for any other medical condition; and

WHEREAS; early identification and treatment can make a difference in the successful management of mental illness and recovery, yet many of those affected by mental illness face long delays between the time their symptoms first appear and when they are able to get help, due in large part to barriers to healthcare access and the stigma that surrounds mental illness; and

WHEREAS; from kids and families to farmers and veterans, to educators and healthcare workers, to folks with substance use disorders and those experiencing mental health crises, to uninsured or underinsured individuals, all Wisconsinites deserve access to quality, affordable mental and behavioral healthcare services, which is why our state has been proud to both support and advance unique and innovative solutions to address the need for increased mental health services; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins mental healthcare providers, advocacy organizations, and people across our state in working to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness through commonsense policy, public education efforts, and civic engagement so that mental healthcare can be accessible to all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim October 2 through 8 2022 as

## **MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS WEEK**

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 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State