

WHEREAS; an estimated 207,000 Wisconsinites identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer (LGBTQ); and

WHEREAS; members of the LGBTQ community live in every corner of our state, hold positions in every sector of our economy, and make essential contributions to the history, culture, and rich fabric of our society; and

WHEREAS; coming out, which is the public self-acknowledgement of belonging to the LGBTQ community, is recognized by many as a significant life experience; and

WHEREAS; coming out can serve as a turning point for many folks, transforming the loneliness and self-denial of concealing one's identity into the fulfillment of being true to oneself and claiming dignity, empowerment, and self-respect, as well as support from others; and

WHEREAS; founded in 1988 to celebrate the anniversary of the second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, National Coming Out Day is observed every year on October 11 as a day of self-affirmation and awareness of LGBTQ issues; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, we recognize the generations of LGBTQ Wisconsinites and Americans who have worked to overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges and adversity, combating social stigma, demanding visibility and representation, and demonstrating incredible resilience and joy; and

WHEREAS; while we have taken critical steps toward achieving equity and equality for all Wisconsinites, we must continue to affirm and defend the rights of LGBTQ individuals and work to ensure that our LGBTQ-identified family members, friends, and neighbors—and transgender individuals and LGBTQ people of color, in particular—are treated equitably and with dignity under the law in our state and across our country; and

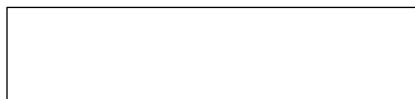
WHEREAS; today, we are reminded that every Wisconsinite deserves to stand boldly in their truth, without fear of persecution, judgement, or discrimination;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 11, 2021, as

NATIONAL COMING OUT 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 8th day of October 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State