

WHEREAS; quality afterschool programs provide safe and engaging learning experiences that help students develop social, emotional, physical, and academic skills, and realize their full potential; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education and well-being of our youth, grounded in the principle that quality afterschool programs are key to helping our kids become successful adults; and

WHEREAS; in addition to serving our state's kids, afterschool programs support working families and contribute to the strength of our communities by engaging youth, families, and adults with schools and community partners to develop positive relationships; and

WHEREAS; throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, afterschool programs have gone above and beyond to address the complex academic, social, and emotional needs of students that are unique to these challenging times; and

WHEREAS; afterschool programs have provided vital support to our state's kids and families over the past year and a half, innovating to provide virtual programming to keep kids engaged, caring for children of essential workers, providing meals, and offering emotional and learning supports; and

WHEREAS; nearly 25 million families nationwide report that they would enroll their child in an afterschool program if one were available, yet many programs across our state and country continue to face severe funding crises and operating challenges which leave many students without a safe and stimulating place to go at the end of each school day; and

WHEREAS; "Lights On Afterschool" is a national celebration of afterschool programs that promotes the importance of quality afterschool programming in the lives of kids, families, and communities; and

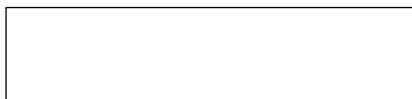
WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to investing in the health and safety of young people throughout our state by expanding access to continued learning opportunities that will help our state's kids learn and grow, close opportunity and achievement gaps, and encourage continued intergenerational success within our communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 28, 2021, as

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL 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