

WHEREAS; according to the American Psychological Association, social isolation and loneliness are on the rise in Wisconsin and across the United States, and have only been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS; according to a 2020 report from AARP, two-thirds of adults in the United States experience social isolation, with 66 percent reporting that their anxiety levels have increased during the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS; while people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities can experience social isolation and loneliness, research shows that older adults and people with disabilities—and those with intersecting marginalized identities, especially—are more likely to experience high levels of loneliness; and

WHEREAS; social isolation and loneliness are significant public health concerns and, according to a 2020 report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, can be responsible for physical, emotional, and psychological health impacts, which include higher cardiovascular risk, increased depressive symptoms, cognitive decline, and higher morbidity and mortality; and

WHEREAS; social isolation, which is typically characterized by a lack of community participation and social connections, can also increase the risk of abuse and neglect among older adults and people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin affirms its commitment to supporting all Wisconsinites who are experiencing social isolation and loneliness, and older adults and people with disabilities, in particular, and joins advocates and organizations across the public and private sectors in raising awareness of and engaging in interventions to reduce social isolation and loneliness in the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim November 13 through 19 2022 as

SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS 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 14th day of October 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State