## STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

WHEREAS; World AIDS Day has been recognized in communities around the world since 1988 to unite individuals, organizations, and government entities in the fight against HIV/AIDS, to show support for those living with HIV, and to recognize those who have lost their lives to the disease; and

WHEREAS; in 2018, the Joint United Nations Program on HIV and AIDS estimated that there were nearly four million people living with HIV/AIDS around the world, approximately 8,500 of whom live and work in Wisconsin, including 1,300 who are estimated to be unaware of having HIV; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' HIV Program continues to operate as our state's leading response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic and works to educate the public about prevention, identification, and treatment, as well as to reduce risk and provide assistance accessing treatment and insurance; and

WHEREAS; HIV/AIDS impacts people of all ages, backgrounds, and identities, and increases an individual's risk for cardiovascular disease, bone loss, and certain cancers, thereby complicating prevention for other diseases; and

WHEREAS; stigma and fear associated with HIV infection can negatively affect a person's quality of life and self-image, causing them to not disclose risk behaviors or their HIV status and avoid seeking HIV care; and

WHEREAS; people who stay in care and take HIV medications as directed can experience increased quality of life, can have undetectable levels of HIV in their blood, and cannot transmit HIV sexually; and

WHEREAS; this World AIDS Day, the state of Wisconsin stands with those whose lives have been impacted by HIV/AIDS, and continues to work to improve the accessibly of HIV prevention, education, and treatment resources for all people;

> NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the state of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim December 1, 2019, as

## WORLD AIDS DAY

Lcommend this observance to all our citizens. throughout the state of Wisc

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 18th day of November 2019.

**GOVERNOR** 

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA F Secretary of State