

WHEREAS; human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) is a virus that compromises the immune system and can potentially lead to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in affected individuals; and

WHEREAS; HIV/AIDS can lead to serious complications, such as an increased risk of cardiovascular, liver, and kidney disease, bone disease and loss, cognitive disorders, certain types of cancer, and other significant health conditions; and

WHEREAS; while HIV/AIDS can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, race, nationality, geographic location, income, or sexual orientation, according to the Human Rights Campaign, it continues to disproportionately impact certain members of the LGBTQ community, including gay and bisexual men and transgender women, and communities of color; and

WHEREAS; the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS estimates that there are approximately 38 million people living with HIV around the world, and according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), there are approximately 8,000 people living with HIV in Wisconsin, including an estimated 1,100 who are unaware of their diagnosis; and

WHEREAS; stigma and fear surrounding HIV can negatively affect an individual's quality of life and self-image, potentially causing them not to disclose risk behaviors or their HIV status and to avoid seeking care; and

WHEREAS; it is important to understand that an HIV diagnosis is not a death sentence and that progression of the disease can be prevented, and people who receive proper care and take medications as directed can lower HIV viral loads in the blood to undetectable levels, significantly reducing their likelihood of transmitting the virus while also allowing them to experience an improved quality of life; and

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

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin HIV Program, which operates through DHS as the state's leading response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, works to reduce risk, educate the public about prevention, identification, and treatment, and provide assistance to individuals accessing treatment and insurance; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins DHS in standing with those whose lives have been impacted by HIV/AIDS—including members of the LGBTQ community who have borne the brunt of this epidemic for generations—and in reaffirming the state's commitment to improving the accessibility of prevention, education, and treatment resources for all Wisconsinites;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim December 1 2022 as

WORLD AIDS 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 28th day of November 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State