

WHEREAS; loneliness and social isolation are on the rise in Wisconsin and across the United States, and their effects have only been exacerbated over the past year and a half by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

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

WHEREAS; an estimated 40 percent of adults with a disability report feelings of loneliness and social isolation, and according to a 2020 report from AARP, two-thirds of adults in the United States are experiencing social isolation, with 66 percent reporting that their anxiety levels have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS; loneliness and social isolation are significant public health concerns, and 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 relationships beyond paid staff, is also a major cause of abuse and neglect among older adults and people with disabilities; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim December 15, 2021, as

LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION AWARENESS DAY

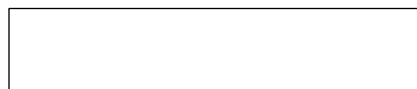
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

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 29th day of November 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State