

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*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

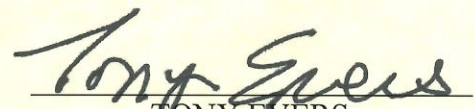
*WHEREAS*; today, the state of Wisconsin affirms its commitment to supporting older adults and people with disabilities and joins advocates and organizations across the public and private sectors in raising awareness of and engaging in interventions to reduce loneliness and social isolation in our state;

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

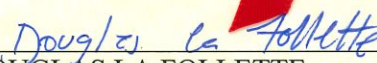
## LONELINESS AND SOCIAL ISOLATION AWARENESS DAY

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 29<sup>th</sup> day of  
November 2021.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State