



RCAW
Respite Care Association
of Wisconsin

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**Governor Evers Issues Proclamation Declaring June 22-25, 2021 ‘Respite Care Awareness Week’
to kick off the 2021 International Short Break (Respite) Association Conference!**

Appleton, WI: June 21, 2021 - The Respite Care Association of Wisconsin, ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center, and University of Madison Wisconsin School of Nursing are co-hosting the biennial [2021 International Short Break Association \(ISBA\) Conference](#) VIRTUALLY from June 22 -25, 2021. What was to be a huge international influx of attendees in Madison, Wisconsin in June 2020, will now be held virtually due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Today, Governor Evers issued a state proclamation recognizing June 22-25 as Respite Care Awareness Week to coincide with the International Short Break Conference.

The ISBA Conference is intended to foster the exchange of diverse ideas and perspectives, providing participants with an opportunity to present their lived experiences, best practices, and research findings, establish/renew collaborations, and learn, teach, and network with an international community of individuals interested in short breaks/respite care.

This international conference is intended for everyone who provides, uses, or needs respite/short break services. It is also for policy makers and program administrators who want to understand or better support the respite/short break needs of family caregivers, and individuals who receive respite care across all ages.

“We are so excited that more than 460 people from around the world have already registered to attend the conference. With support from our generous sponsors and donors, we were able to offer free registration to more than 50 family caregivers and individuals with disabilities, as well. Respite is a critical support for family caregivers, providing them with a much-needed break from the constant demands of caregiving. I am excited to learn from and with our international partners to help move respite forward,” stated Kim Whitmore, ISBA President.

The theme for the conference Moving Respite Forward is inspired by Wisconsin's motto "Forward" which reflects the State's continuous drive to be a national leader. This conference will provide a space to advance knowledge and understanding of respite by learning from and with international leaders in the field of respite. The conference will also challenge attendees to utilize evidence-based practices and discover innovative strategies to improve respite care to meet the growing needs of the more than 50 million U.S. family caregivers, and millions more carers around the world. Together, we are Moving Respite Forward!

"Respite, a.k.a. short break, is a universal need for family caregivers. Co-Hosting this conference is such an amazing opportunity to highlight respite awareness at an international level. Despite participants attending from 17 different countries, the sessions and messaging are consistent in regard to the importance of respite for both the family caregiver and the care recipient," said Lisa Schneider, Executive Director of Respite Care Association of Wisconsin. *"The opportunity to bring together a global audience of advocates, caregivers, self-directed consumers, professionals, and researchers is empowering and fulfilling."*

Respite Care Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (RCAW) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization established in 1987. In 1999, Wisconsin adopted the Lifespan Respite Care legislation and contracts with RCAW to administer the program. We are funded by state General Purpose Revenue (GPR) through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). RCAW's mission is to promote, support, and expand quality, statewide respite care across the lifespan.

"ARCH is excited and proud to cohost the International Short Break Conference with our Wisconsin partners, the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin Madison School of Nursing. Wisconsin's leadership in promoting innovative, quality respite, and in supporting its caregivers across the lifespan, is a model for other states and the world. We have much to learn from our colleagues in Wisconsin and around the globe," said Jill Kagan, Director of the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center. *"We applaud Governor Evers for designating June 22-25 as Respite Care Awareness Week."*

ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center's mission is to assist and promote the development of quality respite and crisis care programs in the United States; to help families locate respite and crisis care services in their communities; and to serve as a strong voice for respite in all forums.

Attached: Proclamation

****END****

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; according to the World Health Organization, more than 349 million people worldwide are estimated to be care-dependent, including 18 million children under the age of 15 and 101 million adults aged 60 or older; and

WHEREAS; motivated by love, concern, and commitment, family caregivers in Wisconsin and around the world provide critical services that promote the well-being and enhance the quality of life of our most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS; family caregivers assist with daily living tasks and often perform complex medical tasks so that their loved ones can continue to live at home; and

WHEREAS; caregiving is a lifespan issue that is not bound by age, race, gender, disability, or diagnosis, and we recognize that family caregivers often struggle to meet their own personal and occupational needs, as well as the needs of others in their households, and that they require support to stay healthy, both physically and mentally; and

WHEREAS; respite care is proven to help alleviate stress and improve the health and well-being of caregivers, although a vast majority of family caregivers are not receiving this invaluable service; and

WHEREAS; every year, the International Short Break Conference brings together an international network of people who provide, utilize, or need respite services to exchange knowledge and working practices focused on respite care for family caregivers; and

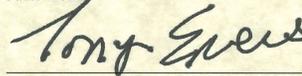
WHEREAS; this week, coinciding with the 12th annual International Short Break Conference hosted by the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin and partners, the state of Wisconsin celebrates family caregivers for the critical contributions they make in service to folks across our state and throughout the world, and reaffirms its commitment to expanding services that support caregivers and enhance caregiving;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 22 – 25, 2021, as

RESPIRE CARE AWARENESS WEEK

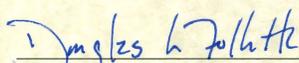
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

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 11th day of
June 2021.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR



By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State