WHEREAS; the Tamil language is one of the longest-surviving classical languages in the world and is widely spoken throughout India, Singapore, and Sri Lanka, as well as by many Wisconsin families across the state; and

WHEREAS; members of Wisconsin's Tamil community have made numerous contributions to the state and play a vital role in keeping Tamil traditions, language, and heritage intact while enriching Wisconsin's cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS; each January, members of the Tamil community celebrate Thai Pongal—a four-day harvest festival that coincides with the beginning of the Tamil month called Thai—and the Tamil community of Wisconsin welcomes all Wisconsinites to participate in this year's celebration to experience the rich and inclusive Tamil heritage; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins Tamil people across the state in celebrating the vibrant culture and longstanding history of the Tamil community in the state and around the world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim January 2025 as

TAMIL LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE MONTH

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 20th day of December 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State