WHEREAS; according to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer, which encompasses cancers that start in the colon or rectum, is the second most common cause of cancer deaths in the United States among men and women combined; and

WHEREAS; the American Cancer Society estimates that 107,320 Americans will be diagnosed with colon cancer, 46,950 Americans will be diagnosed with rectal cancer, and approximately 52,900 Americans will lose their battle with one of these diseases in 2024 alone; and

WHEREAS; while colorectal cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented with timely screening, such as a colonoscopy, many adults are not getting tested screened as recommended; and

WHEREAS; the American Cancer Society reports that incidence rates of colorectal cancer are rising among young and middle-aged adults, which is why it is critical that people of all ages, races, genders, and identities know the signs and symptoms of the disease and remain diligent about staying up to date with recommended screenings; and

WHEREAS; the American Cancer Society further states that colorectal cancer incidence and mortality rates are disproportionately high among people of color, especially Hispanic communities; and

WHEREAS; disparities in health outcomes are not the consequence of individual habits or poor choices but rather are the result of inequities within the medical system that call for increased access to quality healthcare, including preventative healthcare and education; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins patients, survivors, healthcare providers, and all those who have been affected by the disease across the state in raising awareness of the importance of early detection and screening for colorectal cancer;

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

## COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS 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 14th day of February 2025.
TONY EVERS, Governor
By the Governor:
SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State