WHEREAS; every year, the celebration of School Social Work Week highlights the central role that school social workers play in the lives of students and families across Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; the unprecedented challenges of the last few years have only underscored the need for school-based social work programs to meet the emotional, physical, and environmental needs of Wisconsin's students and improve their chances for academic success; and

WHEREAS; school social workers are mental health experts who are skilled in identifying and providing services to students who are facing circumstances and obstacles that can hinder learning and growth, such as poverty, disability, discrimination, abuse, addiction, bullying, divorce, or grief and loss; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin has been proud to advance and support innovative initiatives to increase vital mental and behavioral health services in Wisconsin schools, including measures to reimburse schools for the cost of school mental health professionals like social workers through the "Get Kids Ahead" initiative, as well as supporting the overall, long-term success of the social work industry; and

WHEREAS; the theme for this year's School Social Work Week is "Pearls of Wisdom" to celebrate the countless PEARLS—practice history, education, advocacy, resources, and leadership—of wisdom that school social workers bring to their communities across the state; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in thanking school social workers across the state for the important work they do to promote the academic, social, emotional, and personal success of Wisconsin's students;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim March 3 through 9 2024 as

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK 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 19th day of February 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State