WHEREAS; every Wisconsinite deserves the opportunity to be healthy, regardless of who they are, where they live, their household income, or their health circumstances, and Wisconsin's free and charitable clinics play an essential role in ensuring healthcare access for all; and

WHEREAS; according to the National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics, there are more than 1,400 free and charitable clinics nationwide which serve approximately 1.7 million patients every year with help from over 175,000 volunteers annually; and

WHEREAS; free and charitable clinics provide a variety of medical, dental, behavioral health, and pharmaceutical services, including vaccinations and preventative care for chronic diseases, and often rely on the support of dedicated volunteers and community donations to serve patients in need; and

WHEREAS; free and charitable clinics continue to prove effective in helping Wisconsinites and individuals across the country overcome barriers to healthcare access—such as geography, income, and insurance status—and reduce overall costs of care by taking critical preventative measures to promote patients' overall health and well-being, which can potentially prevent them from needing further medical treatment later on in life; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated individuals, advocates, and organizations across the state in recognizing the importance of free and charitable clinics and the vital contributions they make to support affordable and accessible healthcare for individuals, families, and communities across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim March 16 through 22 2025 as

FREE AND CHARITABLE CLINIC 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 6th day of March 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State