WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to the country's third largest Hmong population; and

WHEREAS; Hmong people are originally from southern China and Southeast Asia, specifically Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, and Myanmar; and

WHEREAS; thousands of Hmong people courageously fought alongside Americans during the Vietnam War, and many were ultimately forced to flee their native lands and resettle in communities throughout the United States, including in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; Hmong Americans have lived and worked in Wisconsin for more than four decades and have greatly contributed to the state's rich history, culture, economy, and public service; and

WHEREAS; recognized statewide since 2004, Hmong Heritage Month—formerly Hmong History Month—provides an opportunity to reflect on the many sacrifices that Hmong people have made in service to the country and to celebrate the vibrant, resilient, and diverse culture of Hmong Wisconsinites as an important part of the state's identity; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in celebrating Hmong Heritage Month by embracing the power of diversity and honoring the countless contributions of Hmong individuals and communities to the historical, cultural, and economic fabric of the state, nation, and world;

> NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim April 2024 as

HMONG 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 26th day of March 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State