WHEREAS; Sjögren's syndrome is an autoimmune disorder that affects an individual's ability to effectively regulate body moisture, causing excessive and unusual dryness; and

WHEREAS; in addition to dryness, individuals with Sjögren's syndrome may also experience joint pain, swollen lymph nodes, skin rashes, prolonged fatigue, and other significant symptoms, according to Cleveland Clinic; and

WHEREAS; there are two types of Sjögren's syndrome, primary, which develops naturally without other health triggers, and secondary, which occurs as a result of another condition or medical issues; and

WHEREAS; currently, there are millions of Americans living with Sjögren's syndrome, including many in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; while anyone can develop Sjögren's syndrome, women, individuals with autoimmune diseases, individuals ages 45-55, and those with genetic relatives with the condition may be at a higher risk; and

WHEREAS; as there is currently no known cure for the diseases, treatment often centers around symptom management and prevention and may often include the use of artificial tears, dry eye surgery, saliva supplements, specialized dental products, hormonal therapy, and pain reducers; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated individuals, advocates, and organizations across the state in raising awareness and understanding of Sjögren's syndrome to promote research, improve patient outcomes, and ultimately find a cure;

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

SJÖGREN'S 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 29th day of March 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State