

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's teens play a critical role in the state, participating in the labor force at a higher rate than their peers nationally, and their early experiences are critical in building the skills and connections necessary for Wisconsin's future economy; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin passed its first law regulating child labor in 1867, and subsequent state laws expanded the protection of minors, including an 1877 state statute prohibiting children under 12 years of age from employment deemed to be detrimental to their health; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin established the first work permit program in 1899, and continues to regulate workplace standards for minors today, collaborating with employers, educators, families, and teens to help provide a positive employment experience that is both rewarding and safe; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin recognizes the importance of educating employers about their responsibilities when hiring minors and in fostering a work environment that safeguards the well-being of young individuals; and

WHEREAS; through awareness and training, Wisconsin employers will create safe, respectful workplaces that nurture the growth and development of young workers; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin workforce community is committed to the continued development of programs and technology that improve gainful employment opportunities for minors, including Wisconsin's Youth Apprenticeship Program and Project SEARCH, which have both seen record participation and success in recent years; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development in continuing the state's efforts to ensure both employers and teens understand their workplace rights and responsibilities, enforcing Wisconsin's child labor laws and protections, celebrating increased job safety while expanding opportunities for young workers, and recognizing the importance of strengthening the state's workforce for this generation and generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

## **WELCOME TO THE WORKFORCE MONTH**

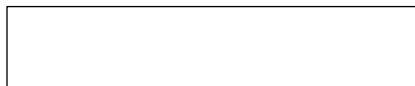
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

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 25th day of March 2026.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State