

WHEREAS; as the hearts of cities, towns, schools, campuses, and communities across Wisconsin, libraries are inclusive and accessible places that foster a sense of belonging and community and have long served as trusted and treasured institutions for all people; and

WHEREAS; libraries aim to develop and maintain programs and collections that are as unique and diverse as the populations they serve and are committed to ensuring equity of access for all by offering opportunities for everyone to explore new worlds and become their best, most successful selves through access to technology, multimedia content, and educational resources; and

WHEREAS; access to high-speed internet is not a luxury but a necessity, and for people without internet access at home, libraries provide critical access to computers and Wi-Fi and may even offer internet hotspots and laptops that can be checked out; and

WHEREAS; protecting and investing in public libraries has never been more important, as libraries, librarians, and library staff play an invaluable role in supporting their communities and continuously go above and beyond to meet the evolving needs of their patrons, consistently promoting the free exchange of information and strengthening democracy; and

WHEREAS; the theme of this year's National Library Week, "Ready, Set, Library!," encourages everyone to visit their local libraries and highlights libraries' unique ability to foster in-person connections through author talks, workshops, book clubs, and more in an increasingly digital world; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins libraries, librarians, and library staff, supporters, and advocates in encouraging all Wisconsinites to sign up for a library card, visit their local library, and support local libraries across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 7 through 13 2024 as

## **NATIONAL LIBRARY 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 2nd day of April 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State