WHEREAS; according to the World Health Organization (WHO), infertility is a global health issue that affects approximately one in six people of reproductive age worldwide and is a disease that can affect anyone regardless of race, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS; identified as an inability to get pregnant after 12 or more months of trying, infertility can be caused by several different factors in both partners' reproductive systems, from obstruction of the reproductive tract or endometriosis to hormonal and genetic disorders to age and lifestyle; and

WHEREAS; all people who experience challenges in conceiving should have access to familybuilding options, including medical treatments such as in vitro fertilization (IVF), donor-assisted reproduction, and surrogacy, however cost, lack of or inadequate insurance coverage, and discrimination can present barriers to many in accessing the family-building options they need; and

WHEREAS; members of the LGBTQ community, in particular, may face challenges when building their families, such as the denial of fertility care and discrimination in the adoption and foster care systems; and

WHEREAS; in recent years, ongoing and pervasive attacks on reproductive healthcare in the United States, including those that threaten providers and patients utilizing IVF, have jeopardized the reproductive freedoms and protections of those receiving fertility treatment and could result in a critical lack of access to affordable, quality care; and

WHEREAS; every Wisconsinite should have the right to consult their family, their faith, and their doctor to make a reproductive healthcare decision that is right for them, and every Wisconsinite should be able to make these deeply personal decisions without interference from politicians who do not know anything about their life circumstances, values, or responsibilities; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated organizations and volunteers, healthcare professionals, and all affected individuals and families in raising awareness of infertility and working to eliminate the stigma that too often surrounds it, along with all other barriers to family-building;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim April 20 through 26 2025 as

NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS 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 7th day of April 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State