WHEREAS; Wisconsin's licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and advanced practice registered nurses are integral to the safety and quality of care of hospitalized patients, non-hospitalized patients, and recipients of public health nursing services across the state; and

WHEREAS; the safe, cost-effective, and high-quality healthcare services provided by Wisconsin's nursing workforce are an important asset to the state's healthcare delivery system, and the demand for nursing is increasing as life expectancy, life-sustaining technologies, and home healthcare and telehealth services expand; and

WHEREAS; while the nursing profession continues to adapt and meet the different and emerging healthcare needs of Wisconsinites in a wide range of settings, expanding access to primary and preventive care in Wisconsin will require better utilization of the full spectrum of the state's nursing resources; and

WHEREAS; 2024 was declared the Year of the Worker as more nurses and more qualified nurse faculty are needed now and in the future to address current healthcare workforce shortages and the increasingly diverse and complex healthcare needs of the state, as well as to help educate and prepare a strong, skilled nursing workforce for generations to come; and

WHEREAS; in collaboration with local partners, the state of Wisconsin is working to help fill professional shortages by increasing educational opportunities and accelerating the entry of nursing graduates into the workforce to meet the needs of Wisconsin, especially in rural and atrisk communities; and

WHEREAS; the theme of this year's National Nurses Month, "Nurses Make the Difference," honors the compassion and care exhibited by nursing professionals and the profound impact they make on the health, safety, and quality of care of all patients; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in commending nurses across the state—including primary care, long-term care, and public health nurses and nursing assistants—for their selflessness, sacrifice, and empathy;

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

NATIONAL NURSES MONTH

and May 6 through 12 2024 as

NATIONAL NURSES 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 17th day of April 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State