WHEREAS; mental health includes one's emotional, psychological, and social well-being, and it affects how one thinks, feels, acts, handles stress, relates to others, and makes choices; and

WHEREAS; mental health conditions are real and prevalent in the lives of Wisconsinites of every age and in every corner of the state; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's mental health providers are frontline workers who are dedicated to improving the mental health of individuals, couples, kids and families, and communities; and

WHEREAS; by creating safe spaces where all people can be heard and receive essential support, mental health providers are champions of wellness, defenders of privacy, and advocates for hope and a brighter future; and

WHEREAS; the state remains committed to expanding access to mental and behavioral healthcare services across the state, including investments to support the strength of the mental health workforce and ensure the state has adequate, available mental health professionals to provide the high-quality treatment Wisconsinites need and depend on; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin affirms that mental and behavioral healthcare is healthcare and honors the dedicated mental health providers working across the state for their critical contributions to the overall health and well-being of all Wisconsinites;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 12 2024 as

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

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 22nd day of April 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State