WHEREAS; celiac disease is one of the most prevalent genetic autoimmune diseases worldwide, affecting an estimated three million people in the United States—the majority of whom are undiagnosed—according to the Celiac Disease Foundation; and

WHEREAS; in individuals with celiac disease, ingesting gluten causes the body to attack its own small intestine, which can lead to other devastating health conditions, including various cancers; and

WHEREAS; celiac disease currently has no cure or medication treatment option, with the only existing treatment being a lifelong, strict gluten-free diet; and

WHEREAS; research suggests that many people with celiac disease who adhere to a glutenfree diet nevertheless continue to experience symptoms and intestinal damage, underscoring the need for improved treatments; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin joins all affected individuals, as well as dedicated advocates and organizations across the state, including the Celiac Disease Foundation, in spreading awareness of celiac disease in the hopes that advancements in research and medicine will lead to improved treatments for celiac disease and eventually a cure;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 16 2023 as

## **CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS 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 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State