WHEREAS; each year, Wisconsin faces catastrophic weather events such as tornadoes, hail, flooding, and other natural disasters, all of which can cause serious damage or destruction of individuals' private property and homes; and

WHEREAS; following these disasters, homeowners are vulnerable to predatory practices from contractors fraudulently inflating repair or rebuilding costs, and raising public awareness of the various types of contractor fraud schemes is essential to educate homeowners on how to identify and avoid these harmful schemes; and

WHEREAS; predatory practices by unscrupulous contractors ultimately increase costs for consumers by driving up insurance premiums and forcing insurers to reevaluate risk; and

WHEREAS; it is recommended for Wisconsinites to get at least three written estimates, review contractor credentials, and work collaboratively with insurers during the entirety of the rebuilding process when hiring a contractor; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins national, state, and local partners, including law enforcement, first responders, legislators, and state officials, in encouraging all Wisconsinites to become familiar with contractor fraud tactics and to understand their rights as a consumer under Wisconsin Home Improvement regulations;

> NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 19 through 23 2025 as

CONTRACTOR FRAUD 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 16th day of May 2025.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State