WHEREAS; Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort coordinated each September by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency to raise public awareness about the importance of planning for all types of disasters that may impact homes, businesses, schools, and communities; and

WHEREAS; all Wisconsinites are vulnerable to natural and man-made threats, and it is in everyone's best interest to be prepared to respond to disasters and emergencies at a moment's notice; and

WHEREAS; as the threat of climate change continues to drive extreme weather events and more frequent natural disasters, it is now more important than ever to be equipped with a disaster kit and emergency plan; and

WHEREAS; individuals, communities, organizations, and all levels of government must work together to prepare for and protect against threats, and Wisconsin Emergency Management's (WEM) ReadyWisconsin campaign provides all Wisconsinites with the tools they need to be informed and to take action; and

WHEREAS; preparedness is important at every age, which is why ReadyWisconsin's Student Tools for Emergency Planning—or STEP—program encourages fourth and fifth-grade students around the state to make action plans with their families and learn how to respond to an emergency; and

WHEREAS; the theme of this year's national campaign emphasizes supporting and preparing older adults in the event of a disaster and serves as a reminder of the importance of building strong relationships with older individuals in our families and in our communities so they may become more resilient and better prepared for disaster; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins WEM in encouraging all individuals and families to put together a disaster kit, make a disaster plan, and learn how to stay informed about potential threats;

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

PREPAREDNESS MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.

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SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State