WHEREAS; Wisconsin plays a vital role in identifying and protecting its residents from, and responding to, cybersecurity threats that may have a significant impact on safety and privacy; and

WHEREAS; critical infrastructure is increasingly dependent on information systems and technology to support everything from financial services, energy, commerce, and telecommunications to transportation, utilities, healthcare, emergency response systems, and more; and

WHEREAS; education and awareness of best cybersecurity practices are critical for any individual or organization that is connected to the internet, from large corporations and financial institutions to government agencies, educational institutions, small businesses, and at-home users; and

WHEREAS; all Wisconsinites are reminded of the importance of monitoring their online accounts, being conscientious of what they share online, keeping computer software up to date, creating unique passwords and changing them regularly, using multi-factor authentication, installing anti-virus programs and firewalls, and using mobile devices and other internet-connected devices safely; and

WHEREAS; maintaining cybersecurity is a responsibility shared by all, and awareness of essential personal and organizational cyber safety practices will improve the security of Wisconsin's information, infrastructure, and economy; and

WHEREAS; for more than 20 years, Cybersecurity Awareness Month has been observed on the national level to showcase and inspire, engage, and inform members of the public about the opportunities available within the area of cybersecurity and highlight how building the cybersecurity workforce enhances the nation's security and promotes economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Administration and Wisconsin Emergency Management, a division of the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, in encouraging individuals and businesses across the state to protect their identity, data, and devices while using the internet, and reaffirms its commitments to providing the resources and information necessary to stay safe online and connect with confidence;

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

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

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 30th day of September 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State