WHEREAS; hearing and balance are essential to communication, education, employment, personal safety, independence, and quality of life, and hearing and balance disorders affect Wisconsinites of all ages, from newborns and schoolchildren to working adults and older residents; and

WHEREAS; doctors of audiology are highly educated, licensed healthcare professionals who specialize in the prevention, identification, diagnosis, treatment, and management of hearing and balance disorders, providing essential healthcare services to individuals and families throughout Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; early identification and appropriate treatment of hearing loss and balance disorders can improve communication, support childhood development and educational achievement, promote healthy aging, reduce the risk of falls, and help individuals remain active and engaged in their communities; and

WHEREAS; as Wisconsinites prepare for the fall hunting seasons, it is also important to recognize that exposure to firearm noise, even from a single gunshot, can cause permanent hearing damage and encourage hunters and recreational shooters to use appropriate hearing protection to prevent noise-induced hearing loss; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state encourages all Wisconsinites to protect their hearing, recognize the signs of hearing and balance disorders, seek timely professional evaluation and treatment, and recognizes the vital contributions of doctors of audiology to the health and well-being of the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 2026 as

AUDIOLOGY 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 22nd day of October 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State