WHEREAS; originating in Sweden over 200 years ago, the role of the ombuds was first created as a government official charged with advocating on behalf of citizens and fielding complaints against their government; and

WHEREAS; modern ombuds are impartial, independent, and confidential conflict management professionals who work to address both systemic and individual issues outside of and complementary to formal conflict resolution channels like human resources, complaints, grievances, and legal action; and

WHEREAS; ombuds work in a variety of organizations, from universities and colleges to all levels of government to healthcare and financial institutions to corporations, the media, and international and not-for-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS; by providing valued forms of alternative dispute resolution, ombuds programs are an essential supplement to formal conflict management and offer a significant service to the constituents and institutions they work with; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin recognizes the value that ombuds bring to the organizations and constituents they serve and encourages all Wisconsinites to become familiar with the ombuds profession and make use of these essential programs and services;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 8 2026 as

OMBUDS 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 24th day of September 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State