WHEREAS; mental health includes one's emotional, psychological, and social well-being, and it affects how an individual thinks, feels, acts, handles stress, relates to others, and makes choices; and

WHEREAS; mental health conditions are real and prevalent in the lives of Wisconsinites in every corner of the state, and ensuring that individuals have access to mental health services is essential to the overall health and well-being of the state; and

WHEREAS; whether it is kids and families, farmers and veterans, educators and healthcare workers, individuals with substance use disorders and those experiencing mental health crises, or uninsured or underinsured individuals, all Wisconsinites deserve access to quality, affordable mental and behavioral healthcare services; and

WHEREAS; 2023 was declared the Year of Mental Health in Wisconsin, and the state has been proud to support and advance innovative solutions to address the need for increased mental health resources and services, including support for Wisconsin veterans, investments in mental health resources for farmers, and the Get Kids Ahead initiative, as well as other measures that address student mental health in Wisconsin schools; and

WHEREAS; today and throughout the year, the state of Wisconsin remains committed to increasing access to mental healthcare and services, addressing disparities in access to quality, affordable mental health and healthcare services among underrepresented groups, supporting research into culturally relevant and evidence-based mental healthcare and services, and reducing stigma; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms that mental and behavioral healthcare is healthcare and reminds all Wisconsinites that, now more than ever, individuals have a responsibility to promote shared values of kindness, empathy, and respect, take good care of themselves, as well as family and neighbors, and work to eliminate the stigma that all too often prevents individuals from seeking much-needed mental health support;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October 10 2024 as

## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH 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 4th day of October 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State