WHEREAS; lead poisoning is characterized by exposure to a neurotoxin that can cause damage to the brain and nervous system, which can result in learning and behavioral problems, slowed growth and development, and difficulties with hearing and speech; and

WHEREAS; childhood lead poisoning has affected every county in Wisconsin, with a disproportionate number of kids who have experienced lead poisoning coming from low-income families who often face inequitable access to the healthcare services needed to treat lead exposure, as well as the economic and social supports necessary to prevent lead poisoning in the first place; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Department of Health Services is committed to leading Wisconsin's response to the lead poisoning crisis and works closely with state agencies, local health departments, child care providers, healthcare providers, community organizations, and businesses to eliminate sources of lead exposure and support kids who have been lead poisoned; and

WHEREAS; no amount of lead exposure is safe, and robust policies and funding are needed to ensure communities can remove all sources of lead from their environments to protect the health of all kids now and in the future, which is why the state of Wisconsin continues to utilize all state and federal resources available to assist local communities with replacing lead service lines that provide drinking water; and

WHEREAS; parents and caregivers are encouraged to talk with their healthcare provider or local clinic about the risk of lead exposure in their community and the need to test their kid's blood for lead; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin recognizes the dangers of lead poisoning and the actions that must be taken to prevent and address childhood lead poisoning across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October 20 through 26 2024 as

NATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

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