WHEREAS; lead poisoning causes damage to the brain and nervous system, and can result in learning and behavioral problems, slowed growth and development, and difficulties with hearing and speech; and

WHEREAS; childhood lead poisoning affects every community 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 support necessary to prevent lead poisoning in the first place; and

WHEREAS; as of January 2025, the state of Wisconsin expanded the standard for lead poisoning from a blood lead level of 5 µg/dL to a blood lead level of 3.5 µg/dL or more to ensure kids and families can get the help they need; and

WHEREAS; no amount of lead exposure is safe, and robust policies and long-term 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 encourage families to understand the importance of lead exposure prevention practices in the home; 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; healthcare providers and local clinics play a vital role in childhood lead poisoning prevention, and parents and caregivers are encouraged to talk with their healthcare provider or local clinic about the risk of lead exposure in their community, as well as the importance of testing their kids' blood for lead before the age of two years to ensure timely detection and intervention; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin recognizes the dangers of lead poisoning and is committed to ensuring actions are 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 25 through 31 2026 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 15th day of October 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State