WHEREAS; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) refers to progressive and irreversible lung and airway damage, often caused by smoking, genetic disorders, secondhand smoke exposure, toxins in the air, or exposure to dust or fumes; and

WHEREAS; emphysema and chronic bronchitis are the most common types of COPD, and according to the American Lung Association, more than 11 million adults in the United States live with COPD, including more than 280,000 in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; often, symptoms of COPD do not appear until significant lung damage has occurred, and such symptoms may include difficulty breathing, wheezing or whistling when breathing, chronic coughing, chest tightness or heaviness, fatigue, frequent lung infections, unexplained weight loss, and ankle, feet, or leg swelling; and

WHEREAS; while there is no known cure for COPD, it is largely preventable and treatment typically focuses on symptom management, reducing exacerbation, and quality of life improvements; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins all affected individuals and their families, as well as dedicated healthcare professionals, advocates, and organizations in spreading awareness of COPD and embracing hope for improved treatments and eventually, a cure;

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

CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE PULMONARY DISEASE 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