WHEREAS; according to the Amputee Coalition, there are more than 2.7 million people living with limb loss and limb difference in the United States, and research suggests that this number is projected to rise to over 3.6 million by 2050 unless prevention and education initiatives are prioritized; and

WHEREAS; the Amputee Coalition also estimates that more than 2,000 amputations are performed in Wisconsin each year; and

WHEREAS; vascular disease, including diabetes and peripheral vascular disease, and trauma are cited as the leading causes of amputation, with approximately 99 percent of all cases being attributed to one of these causes; and

WHEREAS; access to appropriate prosthetic care for people living with limb loss is vital to enabling individuals to reach their healing and strength goals, live independently, and live well; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the limb loss community in celebrating all those living with limb loss and limb difference, learning about issues affecting people with limb loss and limb difference, expressing gratitude to family and caregivers, and saluting service members and veterans who have lost limbs in service to the United States or in retirement;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim April 2023 as

LIMB LOSS AND LIMB DIFFERENCE 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 17th day of March 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State