WHEREAS; chronic lower respiratory disease – which includes several groups of lung disease, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma – is listed among the leading causes of death worldwide; and

WHEREAS; our state is committed to ensuring the health of all Wisconsinites and, in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a renewed focus on respiratory health has never been more important; and

WHEREAS; among other responsibilities, respiratory care practitioners manage ventilators in intensive care units, perform cardiopulmonary function tests used to diagnose lung and heart disease, and provide patient education and smoking cessation counseling; and

WHEREAS; our respiratory care practitioners are recognized as one of the most vital and progressive segments of our state’s healthcare delivery system, and continue to play a crucial role in patient care and in the global fight against COVID-19; and

WHEREAS; this occasion serves as an opportunity to raise public awareness of pulmonary diseases and recognize the dedicated professionals who deliver respiratory care in hospitals, emergency departments, and homecare settings across Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin celebrates the respiratory care practitioners working throughout our state for their dedication to patient care and their numerous contributions to the well-being of all Wisconsinites;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October 25 through 31, 2020, as

RESPIRATORY CARE 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 2020.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State