WHEREAS; public health workers have played a leading role in helping to reduce tobacco use, prevent heart disease, promote treatments and early detection of cancer, raise awareness about prevention tools and treatments for HIV/AIDS, promote early childhood health and nutrition, and establish the benefits of drinking water fluoridation leading to improvements in oral health; and

WHEREAS; among their innumerable contributions to society over the past century and beyond, public health workers have also played a critical role in increasing average life expectancy from 50 years in 1900 to 80 years in 2010, an increase of 60 percent; and

WHEREAS; public health workers are dedicated to reducing infant mortality, ensuring that families are immunized against vaccine-preventable diseases, tracking infectious diseases, promoting mental health and injury prevention, helping communities prepare for natural disasters, advancing equity efforts to reduce health disparities, and so much more; and

WHEREAS; advancing public health takes all of us and no one can do it alone, and we recognize that public health workers are leaders in creating partnerships with the business community, local and state government, community organizations, and local schools to improve the conditions that lead to better health for all; and

WHEREAS; in addition to their extraordinary work under ordinary circumstances, public health workers dedicate their time and energy to combat public health crises, such as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, whenever they arise; and

WHEREAS; public health workers in our state have gone above and beyond as leaders in the fight against COVID-19 over the past year and half, tirelessly developing, implementing, and updating public health guidance that follows the latest science in order to ensure that folks across Wisconsin can stay safe and healthy; and

WHEREAS; from the earliest days of the pandemic to the present, public health workers have worked to bring testing sites to communities, provide accurate data, raise and address concerns about the disproportionate impact on communities of color, skillfully conduct countless disease investigations and contact tracing calls to prevent further spread, and administer vaccines in every corner of our state; and

WHEREAS; despite these times of crisis and uncertainty, Wisconsin’s public health workers have remained committed to protecting our healthcare and long-term care systems, and have even helped to secure additional support, resources, and guidance for these systems; and

WHEREAS; as the holiday season approaches and we continue to battle the most dangerous pandemic in a century, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in expressing our deepest gratitude to our public health heroes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim November 22, 2021, as

PUBLIC HEALTH THANK YOU DAY

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 18th day of November 2021.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State