

WHEREAS; thousands of Hmong people courageously fought alongside Americans in the “secret war” in Laos during the Vietnam War, and when the United States withdrew from Vietnam in the early 1970s, many were ultimately forced to flee their native lands and resettle as political refugees in the United States, including in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; Hmong Americans have lived and worked in Wisconsin for more than 45 years, and have contributed to our state’s rich history, culture, economy, and public service; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has the third largest Hmong population in the United States, and the vibrant and resilient culture of Hmong Wisconsinites is an important part of our state’s identity; and

WHEREAS; we are reminded that embracing our diversity makes us better people and better Wisconsinites, and we celebrate the importance of cultural celebrations like the Hmong New Year season as learning opportunities that help build a bright future for us all; and

WHEREAS; the Hmong New Year has historically occurred following the harvest season to celebrate the conclusion of one year and the welcoming of a new year and, in the United States, New Year celebrations enable Hmong Americans to strengthen social ties, maintain cultural identity, and pass on traditions to the next generation; and

WHEREAS; in recognition of the diversity within the Hmong communities across Wisconsin and nationwide, a specific Hmong New Year date is not observed and instead a Hmong New Year season is recognized; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin affirms its commitment to celebrating cultural diversity and ensuring that Wisconsin is a welcoming and inclusive state for all, and joins all Hmong Wisconsinites in celebrating the new year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim September through December, 2021, as the

## **HMONG NEW YEAR SEASON**

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 7<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State