RESOLUTION: Proclaim the Week of April 6-12, 2020, as National Public Health Week in Winnebago County

TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS the week of April 6-12, 2020, is National Public Health Week ("NPHW@25: Looking Back, Looking Forward"); and

WHEREAS, the goal of celebrating the 25th anniversary of National Public Health Week is to highlight some of the greatest public health successes while looking to the future to set goals and work to ensure equity; and

WHEREAS, since 1995 public health organizations have used National Public Health Week to educate the public, policymakers, and public health professionals on issues that are important to improving the public’s health; and

WHEREAS, U.S. life expectancy has decreased in recent years and the three-year drop represents the longest sustained decline in expected lifespan since the Great Recession; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Academy of Medicine, despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the world, the U.S. ranks below many other economically prosperous and developing countries with respect to measures of health, including life expectancy, infant mortality, and maternal mortality rates; and

WHEREAS, there is a significant difference in health status, such as obesity, poor mental health, and drug use, among people living in rural areas compared to urban areas, and this variance increases because rural residents are often more likely to face social determinants that negatively impact health, such as poverty, transportation barriers, and lack of economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, public health professionals collaborate with partners that are outside of the health sector, such as city planners, transportation officials, education officials, and private sector businesses, recognizing that other sectors have an important influence on health; and

WHEREAS, public health professionals help communities prevent, prepare for, withstand, and recover from the impact of a full range of health threats, including disease outbreaks such as measles, natural disasters, and disasters caused by human activity; and

WHEREAS, public health action, together with scientific and technological advances, has played a major role in reducing and in some cases eliminating the spread of infectious disease, and in establishing today’s disease surveillance and control systems; and

WHEREAS, vaccination is one of the most significant public health achievements in history and has resulted in substantial declines in cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases; and

WHEREAS, 60 percent of Americans live with a preventable chronic disease, and health risks such as alcoholism, obesity, and tobacco use are the primary reasons for 7 of every 10 deaths annually in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, more women die from pregnancy-related deaths in the United States than any other developed country, and an estimated 60 percent of such maternal deaths are preventable; and

WHEREAS, drug overdoses more than tripled from 1999 to 2016 and have become the leading cause of death in the United States, with an average of 130 people dying every day; and

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WHEREAS, from 2014 to 2018 in Wisconsin, there was a 272% increase in e-cigarette usage among middle school students and a 154% increase among high school students; and in 2018, 29% of Winnebago County high school students reported using an electronic vapor product in the past month, compared to 21% in 2016; and
WHEREAS, the value of a strong public health system is in the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the places where we all live, learn, work, worship, and play; and
WHEREAS, each 10 percent increase in local public health spending contributes to a 6.9 percent decrease in infant deaths, a 3.2 percent decrease in deaths related to cardiovascular disease, a 1.4 percent decrease in deaths due to diabetes, and a 1.1 percent decrease in cancer-related deaths; and
WHEREAS, efforts to adequately support public health and prevention can continue to transform a health system focused on treating illness to a health system focused on preventing disease and promoting wellness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby proclaims the week of April 6-12, 2020, as National Public Health Week 2020 in Winnebago County and calls upon the citizens of Winnebago County to observe this week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and leaders better understand the value of public health.

Fiscal Impact: None

Respectfully submitted by:

MICHAEL NORTON, District 20

Vote Required for Passage: Majority of Those Present

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ___ day of ______________________, 2020.

Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive