



The State of Wisconsin  
Office of the Governor

A Commendation to Aurora Health Care  
Healthcare Decisions Day in Wisconsin, 2009

WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day is April 16<sup>th</sup> and is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for health care decisions related to end of life care and medical decision-making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that only about 20 percent of people in Wisconsin have executed an advance directive. Moreover, it is estimated that less than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients have an advance directive; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that significant reasons for these low percentages are that there is a lack of knowledge about advance directives and considerable public confusion arising from advance directives that are written in difficult to understand legal and medical terms; and

WHEREAS, easy to understand advance directives that are written in plain language, such as *Five Wishes*, are desirable because they enable completion and foster important family discussions in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, because *Five Wishes* is available in 23 languages, citizens of our ethnic and culturally diverse state can, like English speakers, express their wishes about comfort, dignity and the personal, family and spiritual issues that all Wisconsinites say matter most; and

WHEREAS, one of the principal goals of Healthcare Decisions Day is to encourage hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance directives and increase the number of Wisconsin citizens with advance directives; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's largest health care provider, Aurora Health Care, has adopted *Five Wishes* system wide to use as its advance directive thereby demonstrating leadership in furthering patient and caregiver focused advance care planning.

**Now, therefore, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,** do hereby extend my appreciation and commendation to Aurora Health Care in demonstrating its leadership in helping patients to make important health care decisions for themselves and their families.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this Sixteenth day of April in the year two thousand and nine.

/s/ Jim Doyle