February 9, 2016 – Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, CARPENTER, C. LARSON, RISSER, VINEHOUT and HARRIS DODD, cosponsored by Representatives BERCEAU, JORGENSEN, MASON, OHNSTAD, SINICKI, SPREITZER, SUBECK, ZEPNICK and C. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

Relating to: proclaiming December 1, 2016, through December 7, 2016, as National Tolerance Week in Wisconsin.

Whereas, in 2013, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that there were 5,992 confirmed hate crimes committed throughout the United States; and

Whereas, hate crimes have taken lives, destroyed property, and intimidated communities; and

Whereas, the dangers of intolerance are numerous and have historically proven to weaken communities and divide society by race, religion, and disability; and

Whereas, intolerance and marginalization have led to the oppression of minority groups, and this oppression is against the values that make America great; and

Whereas, any person can be a victim of a hate crime, even if that person belongs to a group constituting a majority in society; for instance, investigators have gathered evidence suggesting that the perpetrator of the recent mass shooting at Umpqua Community College purposefully targeted Christians; and
Whereas, diversity and individuality should be welcomed, embraced, and celebrated in our nation, because people of all backgrounds sought refuge and opportunity in the United States; and

Whereas, immigrants have shared their culture and traditions in our communities to make America one of the most uniquely diverse societies in the world; and

Whereas, the global community, speaking through the United Nations, has recognized that tolerance was paramount in the pursuit of peace, understanding, and mutual respect; and

Whereas, nations on all continents come together to celebrate an International Day of Tolerance; and

Whereas, the legislature has an opportunity to respect the rights and beliefs of free individuals, address intolerance and its ills, and join the global effort for tolerance; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the legislature hereby proclaims December 1, 2016, through December 7, 2016, as National Tolerance Week in Wisconsin.

(END)