Relating to: recognizing March 1, 2019, as National Speech and Debate Education Day in Wisconsin.

Whereas, National Speech and Debate Education Day is being celebrated on March 1, 2019; and

Whereas, established by the National Speech & Debate Association, in conjunction with local partners such as the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association, this event promotes better instruction in speech and debate across all grade levels and highlights the pivotal roles these abilities play in personal advocacy, social movements, and public policy making; and

Whereas, Wisconsin played a key role in the heritage of speech and debate activities, with the founding of secondary and post-secondary national organizations in Ripon, and the nation’s oldest continuously operating secondary school speech and debate organization, the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association; and
Whereas, speech and debate education helps students develop skills in communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration through the practice of public speaking; participants learn not only to analyze and express complex ideas effectively but also to listen, concur, question, or dissent with reason and compassion; and

Whereas, countless educators devote evening and weekend time to speech and debate practices and competitions, and their model of hard work and dedication has lasting, positive impact on their students; and

Whereas, skills learned through speech and debate serve students well throughout their lives, and this occasion presents a welcome opportunity to recognize such instruction as an essential component of a well-rounded curriculum; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the Wisconsin legislature hereby recognize March 1, 2019, as National Speech and Debate Education Day in Wisconsin; and, be it further

Resolved, That the senate chief clerk shall provide a copy of this resolution to the National Speech & Debate Association as well as the Wisconsin High School Forensic Association.

(END)