**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Martha Collins, Communications Director**

May 15, 2025 608-516-3251 | Martha.Collins@legis.wisconsin.gov

***Senator Melissa Ratcliff Passes Resolution Recognizing***

***Syttende Mai Constitution Day Across Wisconsin***

Madison, WI – Today, the WI State Senate passed a resolution designating May 16–18, 2025 as “Syttende Mai Weekend”. Syttende Mai which is Norwegian and translates to the 17th of May – is Norway’s Constitution Day, making Norway an independent nation.

“Norwegian-Americans have played a significant role in shaping our nation’s history and cultural landscape,” Senator Ratcliff stated. “By recognizing Syttende Mai Weekend, we honor their legacy and promote the appreciation of cultural diversity that strengthens our communities.”

Syttende Mai Constitution Day is a celebration of freedom, resilience and national pride – values that have carried Norwegians through centuries of challenge and change.

Every year since 1952 in Stoughton, a city-wide event is held on the weekend closest to May 17th. Stoughton’s Syttende Mai Festival is our nation’s largest Syttende Mai Festival and second largest in the world to Norway.

The bipartisan Joint Resolution acknowledges the contributions of Norwegian immigrants and their descendants to the State of Wisconsin and encourages communities statewide to participate in cultural events and educational activities during this commemorative weekend.

While Syttende Mai is a celebration of Norway’s independence, it is a reminder that freedom must be cherished, that culture must be preserved, and that community must be nurtured – wherever we live.

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*Senator Melissa Ratcliff serves the people and communities of the 16th Senate District including Cambridge, Cottage Grove, Fitchburg, Fort Atkinson, Lake Mills, Marshall, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Waterloo and areas in McFarland and on Madison’s east side.*