

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, during the month of November, Washington State honors unpaid family and kinship caregivers for providing countless hours of assistance to loved ones, friends, and neighbors with chronic illness, disabilities, or other special needs; and

WHEREAS, approximately 830,000 family caregivers in Washington State are the backbone of our long-term services and supports system, and are estimated to provide nearly 770,000,000 hours and \$11 billion annually in unpaid essential services; and

WHEREAS, Washington State is recognized nationally for its unique approach to providing services to support family caregivers and is ranked by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) as first in the nation for long-term care services and supports, including programs carried out by Washington's Department of Social and Health Services' Aging and Long-Term Support Administration and thirteen Area Agencies on Aging; and

WHEREAS, Washington is currently able to provide support to a small portion of unpaid family caregivers through the state's Family Caregiver Support Program, which encourages these heroes to utilize respite and other self-care strategies to provide exceptional care to loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Washington's new, innovative Medicaid Demonstration programs, Medicaid Alternative Care, and Tailored Support for Older Adults will expand the reach of supports and services for Washington's unpaid family caregivers and older adults without a caregiver; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of family members across the state are caring for a person with memory loss or dementia, and the *Washington State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias* recognizes the impact of providing such care and is calling on public and private partners to work collectively to improve services and supports for this growing area of need; and

WHEREAS, the theme for this year's observance is "Caregiving Around the Clock," acknowledging that caregiving can be a rewarding experience but is one that requires significant sacrifices and can cause burdens and stress for the caregiver, making it imperative that caregivers recognize that they must take care of themselves before they can effectively care for someone else;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 2017 as

Family Caregiver Month

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 20th day of October, 2017

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee", written over a horizontal line.

Governor Jay Inslee

