

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, people with a developmental disability are of all racial, ethnic, educational, social and economic backgrounds, and all are valued members of society who find fulfillment living everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, approximately 5 million people nationwide and more than 120,000 adults and children in Washington state have developmental disabilities, and the vast majority of these individuals are primarily or solely supported throughout their lifespan by their families; and

WHEREAS, families of people with developmental disabilities deserve our admiration and recognition for their caring commitment and ongoing support that are both essential to an independent and productive life; and,

WHEREAS, for many of these people with developmental disabilities, there is now the prospect of a brighter future and greater opportunity with increasing awareness that such disabilities need not keep individuals from realizing their full potential in school and as members of their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, early intervention, education, employment, and home and community-based services continue to be vital to enabling citizens with a developmental disability to enjoy the rights of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, new opportunities have been created through the efforts of those with developmental disabilities and their family members, along with professionals and officials who work together to bring about significant changes in the public perception of persons with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Washington state is committed to recognizing that every person, regardless of perceived ability, has valuable strengths, infinite capacity to learn and make decisions, and the capability to make important contributions to their communities if given opportunities to do so; and

WHEREAS, "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" is a time to recognize Washington state's public policy accomplishments concerning persons with disabilities and to identify possible improvements to public policy that would facilitate full inclusion of Washingtonians;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby declare March 2021 as

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

in Washington State, and I urge all people to join me in this special observance

Signed this 10th day of February, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

