The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, during the month of November, Washington state honors more than 860,000 unpaid family and kinship caregivers for providing countless hours of assistance to loved ones, friends, and neighbors with chronic illness, disabilities, and other special needs; and

WHEREAS, Washington state is recognized nationally for its unique approach to providing services to support family caregivers and ranked by AARP as a leader 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, thirteen Area Agencies on Aging and federally recognized Tribes; and

WHEREAS, there is an ever-increasing number of kinship caregivers such as grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins and siblings stepping in to assume responsibility for children whose parents are unable or unavailable to parent, and these kin ensure these children have a healthy, safe and happy childhood, recognizing that family is the cornerstone of our tribes, state and nation, and the children are the future of society; and

WHEREAS, whether the responsibility is undertaken suddenly due to a health event, because of the unexpected necessity to take on the raising of one's grandchildren, or through a gradual increase of responsibility for an older relative who has symptoms of dementia, caregiving is a role for which people do not typically have a plan in place; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of family members across the state are caring for a person with memory loss or dementia, and Washington state's Dementia Action Collaborative is helping to guide them - with information, tips and resources on their journey - through the Dementia Road Map: A Guide for Family and Care Partners and the Dementia Legal Planning Toolkit; and

WHEREAS, to mark the 2022 Family Caregiver Month theme, "Caregiving Happens", unpaid family caregivers caring for family or friends are lauded for their service and support to people in need;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 2022 as

Family Caregiver Month

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

Signed this 18th day of November, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee