

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, family is the cornerstone of Tribes, our state and nation, and family caregivers of adults are the backbone of our long-term services and supports; and

WHEREAS, 820,000 family caregivers of adults in Washington state provide an estimated 770 million hours and over 16 billion dollars in unpaid essential services; and

WHEREAS, the evidence shows that respite or short breaks from caregiving are mentally and physically restorative for family caregivers, and Washington's Family Caregiver Support Program and Medicaid Transformation Project serve family caregivers with consultation, respite care, training, support groups and other services; and

WHEREAS, nearly 50,000 children are living in kinship-headed households such as grandparents, uncles, aunts and siblings stepping in to assume responsibility for children whose parents are unable or unwilling to parent, and these kin work to ensure children have a healthy, safe and happy childhood; and

WHEREAS, the Dementia Action Collaborative (DAC) is increasing awareness of supports and services for more than 254,000 family members caring for a person living with dementia, such as the *Dementia Road Map: A Guide for Family and Care Partners* and the WA Family Caregiver Learning Portal and is working across sectors to develop a more age-friendly and dementia-friendly state; and

WHEREAS, the majority of family caregivers of adults must balance full-time or part-time work with caregiving; and

WHEREAS, Washington is one of 13 states, along with Washington, D.C., that have laws requiring paid family leave when time off is needed to care for a family member; and

WHEREAS, during 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 and other special needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 2025 as

Family Caregiver Month

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

Signed this 20th day of October, 2025


Governor Bob Ferguson

