The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, families are central to the well-being of our communities, state, and nation, and children are the future of society; and

WHEREAS, traditionally, the care, nurturing, and protection of children have been the responsibility of biological parents, with support from other family members and the community; and

WHEREAS, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, and other kin are stepping forward in ever-increasing numbers to assume fulltime parental responsibility for children whose parents are unable or unwilling to nurture, protect, and appropriately parent their children; and

WHEREAS, while these relative-headed families face enormous personal day-to-day living challenges as they focus on ensuring that the children in their care experience structure, accountability, encouragement, affection, safety, and age-appropriate expectations; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this commitment, the home provided for many of these children becomes their 'forever' home and their relatives become moms and dads in the truest sense; and

WHEREAS, the significant care and nurturing of these children by their relatives deserves to be recognized;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim, May 16, 2018, as

Kinship Caregiver Day

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

Signed this 21st day of March, 2018

Governor Jay Inslee