

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington State views the protection of its most vulnerable residents as a top priority and it is a right of all Washington State residents to feel safe and free from abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, more than 1 million Washingtonians are currently over the age of 65 and the population is expected to exceed 1.4 million by 2025; and

WHEREAS, adults who are vulnerable due to age or disability are at increased risk of abuse or neglect, and, in many cases, experience injuries, poverty, and loss of independence; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services' (DSHS) Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (AL TSA), home to Adult Protective Services (APS), is to transform lives by promoting choice, independence, and safety through innovative services to assist vulnerable adults live free of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation, and in 2017, DSHS received more than 49,000 reports of alleged abuse, abandonment, neglect, self-neglect, and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults and the number of reports to APS continues to increase every year; and

WHEREAS, financial exploitation now accounts for 1-in-4 allegations investigated, showing the need for all of us to take proactive steps to protect our financial resources and those of our loved ones, from checkbooks to online accounts; and

WHEREAS, APS depends on reports of suspected mistreatment, and is committed to making lives better for victims of abuse and to empowering vulnerable adults with the knowledge that everyone has the right to be free from abuse and have somewhere to turn for help; and

WHEREAS, people who suspect abuse, abandonment, neglect, self-neglect, or the financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult can call 1-866-EndHarm (1-866-363-4276) to report their concerns, or can make a report online at www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/reportadultabuse; and

WHEREAS, Adult Abuse Prevention Month offers all Washington residents the opportunity to participate in community efforts to improve the safety and well-being of people throughout the state, to recognize the organizations and individuals who serve them, and to remember victims of adult abuse and their families;

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

Adult Abuse Prevention Month

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to protect vulnerable adults by reporting suspected abuse, abandonment, neglect, or the financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult by calling 1-866-EndHarm or making a report online at www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/reportadultabuse.

Signed this 1st day of June, 2018

A blue ink signature of Jay Inslee, Governor of Washington.

Governor Jay Inslee

