

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, no community in Washington State is immune to accidental or intentional overdose, and drug overdose deaths remain high across the state, impacting urban, suburban, and rural communities, overdose deaths disproportionately affect American Indian/Alaskan Native communities and marginalized populations; and

**WHEREAS**, like many states, Washington is fighting concurrent epidemics - while prescription opioids are driving deaths in rural areas of the State, illicit opioid drugs are the primary drivers of deaths in suburban and urban areas; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 1100 Washington residents died from drug overdose deaths in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State Health Care Authority, Department of Health, and University of Washington-Alcohol Drug Abuse Institute, local health jurisdictions, community organizations, syringe-service programs, and pharmacies collectively distributed overdose reversal medication to thousands of individuals in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State acknowledges that there is a need to treat drug-related harm as a public health issue and invest in evidence-based practices that save lives and build communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State has implemented a State Opioid Response Plan to strategically address the epidemic while investing in resources like the 24-hour Washington Recovery Helpline; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State remains committed to raising awareness around drug overdose morbidity and mortality by reducing stigma through statewide initiatives related to education, prevention, treatment, and recovery support for substance use disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, International Overdose Awareness Day is an opportunity for all Washingtonians to stand beside those who have lost loved ones to an overdose and those who have a substance use disorder and are diligently working toward recovery;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim August 31, 2020, as

### *Overdose Awareness Day*

in Washington, and I encourage anyone whose life has been impacted by substance use disorder to call the Washington Recovery Helpline at 1-866-789-1511.

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee

