

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day is designed to inspire, educate, and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning and encourage physicians and their care teams, medical groups, hospitals and health systems, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance care planning; and

WHEREAS, healthcare and community organizations across Washington are assisting people to plan ahead for future healthcare decisions in the event that they are unable to make their own medical decisions and to encourage the use of advance directives to communicate these important health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, in Washington, RCW 11.125.400 allows individuals to name a durable power of attorney for health care and RCW 70.122.030 provides the specifics for a health care directive, offering a model form for patient use; and

WHEREAS, only 24 percent of people in Washington have executed an advance directive; and it is estimated that less than 50 percent of severely or terminally ill patients have an advance directive; and

WHEREAS, a significant reason for these low rates may be a lack of knowledge and considerable confusion about advance care planning and advance directives; and

WHEREAS, Honoring Choices Pacific Northwest, a joint initiative of the Washington State Hospital Association and the Washington State Medical Association Foundation for Health Care Improvement, and other health care and community organizations throughout Washington have endorsed this event and are committed to educating the public about the importance of discussing health care choices and executing advance directives; and

WHEREAS, as a result of April 16, 2022, being recognized as Healthcare Decisions Day in Washington, more residents will have conversations about their health care decisions and execute advance directives to make their wishes known, and fewer families and health care providers will have to struggle with making difficult health care decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 16, 2022, as

Healthcare Decisions Day

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

Signed this 21st day of March, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee

