

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington state is home to more than 1.9 million Americans ages 60 and older who enhance our communities through their diverse life experiences and contributions; and

WHEREAS, older adults and the people who serve them are powerful and vital individuals who greatly contribute to our society;

WHEREAS, Washington prides itself on its long-term services and supports system, which supports older adults to live and age with dignity, independence and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Washingtonians recognize the need to address bias regarding older adults, especially older adults of color and LGBTQ+ older adults, and to acknowledge and value the wisdom and resiliency of our older adults, many of whom survived and prevailed through the historical and ongoing trauma of systemic racism, the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the women's rights movement, the Stonewall Uprising, wars and conflicts, economic crises and recessions, and other trying times in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, Washingtonians believe in a long-term care system that promotes independence and choice among our older adults to promote quality of life on their terms and supports the family caregivers who are the key to many people's successful aging in place; and

WHEREAS, Washington is committed to our community members by offering an opportunity to explore diverse aging experiences; providing abundant activities and social opportunities for older adults to discover new ideas and participate in social groups, fitness classes and volunteer programs; and providing learning opportunities on how to care for someone who is experiencing dementia; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 theme of Older Americans Month, "Aging Unbound," offers an opportunity to explore diverse aging experiences unbound by prejudice and how communities can mitigate stereotypes, and encourages Washingtonians to promote flexible thinking about aging and how we all benefit when older adults stay engaged, independent and included;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2023 as

Older Americans Month

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

Signed this 12th day of April, 2023

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.

Governor Jay Inslee

