

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the family is the primary source of identity, self-esteem and support for children and adults, and provides the nurturing critical for personal development that is the foundation of our communities; and

WHEREAS, parents can encounter problems that require attention and guidance to ensure the safety and support of their children, which can lead to temporary placement of children outside of the home; and

WHEREAS, more than 7,000 children in Washington were in out-of-home care in March 2024; and

WHEREAS, because of the importance of the family bond, reunification with parents and family is the best option and preferred outcome for children removed from their homes and placed in foster care; and

WHEREAS, each year, thousands of parents work hard through the dependency process to improve and grow, and thousands of children are successfully reunified with their parents and families; and

WHEREAS, family reunification also takes investment by extended family members, social workers, foster parents, service providers, attorneys, courts, and the community; and

WHEREAS, celebrating Family Reunification Month is an opportunity to recognize and support families who have successfully reunified with their children, those families currently working through the process, and the many support persons who help these families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim June 2024 as

Family Reunification Month

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

Signed this 22nd day of May, 2024

Governor Jay Inslee

