

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, drug courts and other treatment courts are dedicated to preserving families and supporting individuals with substance use disorder and other behavioral health disorders in transforming their lives; and

**WHEREAS**, treatment courts work, with Washington State Department of Social and Health Services reporting 75 percent of drug court participants have no new felonies at 36-month follow-up and Washington Institute for Public Policy concluding drug courts produce a return-on-investment 100 percent of the time; and

**WHEREAS**, treatment courts counter systemic racism by preventing incarceration and loss of parental rights for people of color who are disproportionately represented within the criminal legal and child welfare systems; and

**WHEREAS**, people are resilient and capable of change when provided the right combination of support, resources, structure, and accountability to support long-term recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, treatment courts create safer, healthier communities that benefit us all by intervening to reduce behavioral health symptoms, decrease overdose deaths, support participants in obtaining housing and gainful employment, and prevent children from entering foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington State has been a national leader in addressing crime and child neglect driven by behavioral health conditions, funding and supporting some of the earliest treatment courts in the country;

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

### *Treatment Court Month*

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

Signed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023

Governor Jay Inslee

