

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, approximately one in five Americans – more than 1.5 million Washingtonians – live with a condition considered an invisible or hidden disability, which can include cognitive impairment and brain injury; autism spectrum disorder; chronic illnesses like multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, chronic pain, and fibromyalgia; d/Deaf and/or hard of hearing; blindness and/or low vision; anxiety; depression; post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and many more; and

**WHEREAS**, invisible disabilities can limit or challenge the individual's movements, senses, or activities and impact the individual's ability to learn or work, ranging from minor impairments to those that are completely disabling; and

**WHEREAS**, the term invisible disabilities, as created and defined by the Invisible Disability Association (IDA), distinguishes disabilities not readily apparent based upon looking at an individual, leading the individual to fight a battle seldom acknowledged by the outside world; and

**WHEREAS**, without obvious and observable signs of disability, individuals with invisible disabilities are often accused of faking and/or exaggerating their conditions, which translates to misunderstandings, fear, and distrust, as well as a lack of funding, accommodations, medical resources, and overall support; and

**WHEREAS**, the Invisible Disabilities Association strives to encourage, educate, and connect people and organizations touched by illness, pain and disability, and in cooperation with IDA, Washingtonians may envision a world where people living with invisible illnesses, pain, and disabilities will be Invisible No More;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 16-22, 2022, as

### *Invisible Disabilities Week*

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

Signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee

