

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the state of Washington is committed to increasing successful transitions of individuals from state correctional facilities to the community in order to ensure public safety, rehabilitation, and self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, in Washington State, approximately 17,000 adults are incarcerated in prisons, 95 percent of whom will eventually return to the community, and approximately 500 youth are confined in residential facilities, all of whom will return to the community; and

WHEREAS, many of the individuals who return to our communities will recidivate and be reincarcerated, and there is a growing body of research that demonstrates that reentry policies and programs that assist individuals to successfully transition to the community from confinement reduces reincarceration, increases public safety, and improves outcomes for these individuals and employment following incarceration reduces the likelihood of an individual reoffending; and

WHEREAS, individuals with criminal records face pervasive obstacles in many areas of life that hinder their ability to successfully reintegrate, including obstacles relating to employment, education, housing, and eligibility for many social service benefits, and the collateral consequences of incarceration disproportionately affect communities of color; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Legislature, Washington State Department of Corrections, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington State Department of Employment Security, Washington State Department of Licensing, Washington State Department of Commerce, the Washington State Health Care Authority, the Statewide Reentry Council, local governments, non-profits, faith communities, labor organizations, and businesses continue to assist this effort by adopting policies and programs to promote successful reentry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 19, 2017 as

Reentry Day

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

Signed this 14th day of April, 2017

Governor Jay Inslee

