

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, therapeutic courts improve both public health and public safety, using evidence-based practices to support individuals and families affected by substance use and other behavioral health conditions in making long-term changes that create safer, healthier communities and benefit us all; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services found that cost savings due to crime reductions created a \$4 return on every tax dollar invested in a Washington state drug court, and analyses of mental health courts and family treatment courts in Washington state have shown savings from reduced recidivism, lower rates of hospitalization, fewer emergency department visits, less involvement in the child welfare system, and fewer children born drug affected; and

**WHEREAS**, therapeutic court participants and alumni create positive ripple effects in their communities, inspiring hope and giving back as productive employees, present parents, good neighbors, dedicated mentors, and effective role models for others in recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, therapeutic courts provide the treatment, case management, peer support, judicial oversight, comprehensive resources, structure, expectations, and accountability that address root causes of criminal behavior, child abuse and neglect and support long-term recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, therapeutic courts have an upstream impact, interrupting generational cycles of substance use and legal involvement and helping to prevent adverse childhood experiences associated with parental substance use, incarceration and foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington state is a national leader in creating meaningful pathways out of the legal system and towards recovery and family reunification, having supported some of the earliest therapeutic courts in the country, with these innovative courts now operating in nearly every county and at every court level;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2025 as

### *Therapeutic Court Month*

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

Signed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025

Governor Bob Ferguson

