

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Washington State took bold action on the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, dedicating resources to educate the public about HIV, prevent the spread of disease, and care for individuals who were infected; and

**WHEREAS**, these resources have been invested wisely, focusing on those areas of the state with the most disease and on interventions that are on the front edge of prevention science and most likely to interrupt the spread of disease, resulting in decreases in new HIV infections, new AIDS cases, and deaths in people with HIV; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the Affordable Care Act, more people than ever have access to health care, and Washington's health system is transforming to integrate physical and behavioral health care and social supports, all of which will help to care for those infected with HIV and further reduce the spread of disease; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of all of these factors, Washington State is again in a position to take bold action and be a national leader in ending AIDS; and medical providers, public health experts, and community advocates are poised to work with other partners across sectors and agencies to drive infection rates to the lowest in the country, by leveraging resources within the evolving health system at a time of budget challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, World AIDS Day is held on December 1<sup>st</sup> each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, as the beginning of our work together to

### *End AIDS in Washington State*

and I urge all people to join me in supporting this effort to make a Healthier Washington for all. Furthermore, I empower the State HIV Planning Steering Group to lead a robust task force to put forward recommendations to achieve the goals of End AIDS Washington, including reducing the rate of new HIV diagnoses in Washington by 50% by 2020 and reducing disparities in health outcomes.

Signed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014

Governor Jay Inslee

