

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, therapeutic courts improve both public health and public safety, using evidence-based approaches to support adults, youth 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**, Washington state is a national leader in creating meaningful pathways out of the legal system and toward recovery and family reunification, having supported some of the earliest therapeutic courts in the country and with these innovative courts now operating in nearly every county and at every court level; and

**WHEREAS**, therapeutic courts provide treatment, case management, peer support, judicial oversight, parenting support, resources, structure, and accountability to support long-term recovery and effectively address root causes of criminal behavior and child abuse and neglect; 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**, therapeutic courts demonstrate that compassionate public policy can result in a cost benefit for taxpayers, with studies showing participation resulting in savings due to crime reductions, 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 Washington state, inspiring hope and giving back as productive employees, present parents, good neighbors, and effective leaders and role models in the recovery community;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as

### *Therapeutic Court Month*

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



Signed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026

  
Governor Bob Ferguson