The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, All Washingtonians should have the opportunity to enjoy mental well-being yet mental health disparities persist in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the Commissions on African American, Asian Pacific American, and Hispanic Affairs work to ensure access to quality, culturally competent, and linguistically appropriate mental health care for the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs and the American Indian Health Commission, along with 29 federally recognized Tribes and two Urban Indian Health Organizations, advocate on behalf of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Washington to ensure access to quality and culturally appropriate mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Health has collected data on mental health issues, and also works with state and community partners to promote mental wellness; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities submitted recommendations to reduce disparities in behavioral health in its 2012 State Policy Action Plan to Eliminate Health Disparities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim July 2015 as

Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

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

Signed this 15th day of June, 2015

Governor Jay Inslee