



Joint Proclamation



WHEREAS, in Washington State, RCW 11.125.400 allows individuals to name a durable power of attorney for healthcare and RCW 70.122.030 provides the specifics for a healthcare directive, offering a model form for patient use; and

WHEREAS, healthcare organizations across Washington state are assisting people to plan ahead for future healthcare decisions in the event that they are unable to make their own medical decisions and to encourage the use of advance directives to communicate these important healthcare decisions; and

WHEREAS, only 24% of people in Washington state have executed an advance directive, and it is estimated that less than 50% of severely or terminally ill patients have an advance directive; and

WHEREAS, a significant reason for these low rates may be a lack of knowledge and considerable confusion about advance care planning and advance directives; and

WHEREAS, Healthcare Decisions Day is designed to inspire, educate, and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning and encourage physicians and their care teams, medical groups, hospitals and health systems, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, continuing care retirement communities, and hospices to participate in a statewide effort to provide clear and consistent information to the public about advance care planning; and

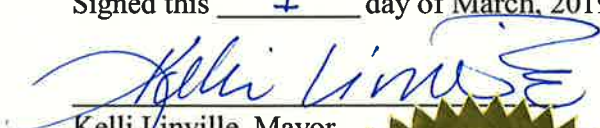
WHEREAS, conversations about healthcare decisions and the execution of advance directives that make patients' wishes known will mean that fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE, Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Jack Louws, Whatcom County Executive, proclaim April 16, 2019, to be

HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

in the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County and encourage the community to join us in this observance.

Signed this 1st day of March, 2019


Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham


Jack Louws, County Executive
County of Whatcom

