

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States and in Washington in 2021, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control, there were 21,980 new lung and bronchus cancer cases and 15,011 deaths because of lung cancer between 2013 and 2017 in Washington and the 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is ~59%, yet only ~17% of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage; and

**WHEREAS**, screening for lung cancer for high-risk individuals using low-dose computed tomography can lead to the earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives, reducing the mortality by 20% when compared to screening by chest x-ray in the National Lung Screening Trial and reducing the risk of death at 10 years by 24% in men and 33% in women as demonstrated by another large randomized trial; and

**WHEREAS**, lung cancer incidence is decreasing twice as fast in men as it is in women, each year more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer and by 2035, more women will die from lung cancer than men; and

**WHEREAS**, disparities in lung cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and mortality are well characterized among African Americans and other racial minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, lung cancer in never smokers is the 7th leading cause of cancer-related death and accounts for 17,000-26,000 deaths in the US every year, 60-70% of never smokers diagnosed with lung cancer are women, and the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in never smokers is increasing in the US;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim the month of November 2021, as

### *Lung Cancer Awareness Month*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to recognize the need for research in lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities, and encourage all citizens, to learn about lung cancer and early detection through lung cancer screening.

Signed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2021

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

