

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the state of Washington seeks to protect and improve the health of all Washingtonians by preventing disease and promoting good health; and

**WHEREAS**, misuse of antibiotics in people and animals contributes to antibiotic resistance and other avoidable antibiotic-associated harms; and

**WHEREAS**, antibiotic resistance threatens the ability of healthcare providers to treat infectious diseases, and more than two million people become ill with antibiotic-resistant infections each year in the United States, resulting in at least 23,000 deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, resistance to antibiotics increases the length and complexity of medical treatment and escalates the cost of healthcare in the United States by an estimated \$30 billion annually; and

**WHEREAS**, appropriate use of antibiotics in people and animals, including animal agriculture, is a key solution to addressing the threat of antibiotic resistance; and

**WHEREAS**, education about antibiotic use and antibiotic associated harms, including resistance, can improve knowledge and practices of healthcare workers, veterinarians, food producers, and the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Department of Health is partnering with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, other state agencies, academic institutions, physicians, veterinarians, food producers, local public health organizations, and consumer groups to increase awareness about the threat of antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate use of antibiotics;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 13-19, 2017 as

### *Antibiotic Awareness Week*

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

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2017

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink.

Governor Jay Inslee

