

# 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

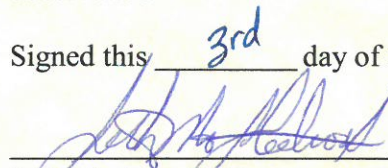
**WHEREAS**, conversations about healthcare decisions and the execution of advance directives that make patients' wishes known will mean that fewer families and healthcare providers will have to struggle with making difficult healthcare decisions in the absence of guidance from the patient

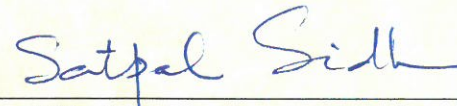
**NOW, THEREFORE, DO WE**, Seth Fleetwood, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, and Satpal Singh Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive, proclaim April 16, 2020, to be

## HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY

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

Signed this 3rd day of February, 2020

  
Seth Fleetwood, Mayor  
City of Bellingham

  
Satpal Singh Sidhu, County Executive  
County of Whatcom

