

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, marijuana is the most commonly used drug by youth in Washington State who seek treatment for substance use, yet is illegal for those under 21; and

WHEREAS, April 20 (4.20) is known in cannabis culture as a national weed day, with some media coverage of this day suggesting that marijuana use is the norm and is not harmful; and

WHEREAS, most Washington State youth do not use marijuana; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that youth who begin using early and who use heavily are four times more likely than adults to become addicted; and

WHEREAS, youth who use marijuana are more likely to experience academic failure because marijuana interferes with attention, memory, and learning; and

WHEREAS, marijuana impairs driving because it impairs judgment, coordination, and reaction time; yet many youth in Washington State do not perceive driving under the influence of marijuana to be a risky activity; and

WHEREAS, parents have a strong influence on their children's decision whether or not to use drugs; and

WHEREAS, parents communicating with their kids about not using marijuana will mean that more youth will grow up healthy and reach their full potential;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 20, 2016 as

Talk With Your Kids About NOT Using Marijuana Day

in Washington State, and I urge all parents and guardians to join me in this important observance by having a frank family conversation about marijuana on 4.20 using straightforward, factual information from websites such as www.starttalkingnow.org or www.learnaboutmarijuanawa.org as their guide.

Signed this 25th day of March, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee

