

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, holistic wellness, including physical, mental, emotional, and social health, is essential to building thriving communities; and

WHEREAS, health disparities persist, impacting Black residents at disproportionate rates in areas such as chronic disease, maternal health, mental health access, and preventive care; and

WHEREAS, Washington state observed the inaugural Black Wellness Week in 2024 under Governor Jay Inslee and Governor Bob Ferguson continued this commitment in 2025, recognizing the importance of addressing health disparities and barriers to well-being within Black communities across Washington; and

WHEREAS, Black Wellness Week continues the legacy of Booker T. Washington's National Negro Health Week, which historically emphasized community-driven approaches to improving health outcomes for Black people; and

WHEREAS, Black Wellness Week is not only about addressing disparities but also about honoring the rich traditions of health and healing in Black communities, fostering resilience and creating spaces where Black joy and well-being are centered; and

WHEREAS, Black Wellness Week prioritizes wellness and health equity through culturally responsive education, prevention and access to resources that promote long-term well-being; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 observance of Black Wellness Week will take place from April 13-17, engaging local organizations, healthcare providers and community members across Washington in education, outreach and advocacy efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 13-17, 2026, as

Black Wellness Week

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

Signed this 9th day of March, 2026

Handwritten signature of Bob Ferguson in blue ink.

Governor Bob Ferguson

