

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, state and federal law prohibits the sale of tobacco and vapor products, to underage persons; and

**WHEREAS**, underage youth vaping has risen at alarming levels according to FDA reports of government studies; and

**WHEREAS**, We Card Awareness Month is a retail education and training effort to boost Washington retailers' awareness of and participation in responsible retailing efforts to comply with federal, state and local laws and identify, prevent and deny tobacco and vapor products and other age-restricted product sales to underage youth; and

**WHEREAS**, 2023 marks 28 years of education and training of the national non-profit organization, THE "WE CARD" PROGRAM INC. - which has been helping retailers comply with age-restricted product laws and serve their communities as responsible retailers; and

**WHEREAS**, according to CDC research data, social sources of tobacco and vapor products comprises approximately 80% of the ways in which those underage report getting tobacco & vapor products; and,

**WHEREAS**, retailers are taking the "We Card Retailer Pledge" to identify and deny underage youth attempts to purchase tobacco and vapor products and to identify and deny adult purchases on behalf of those underage where there is a reasonable suspicion that an adult customer will be providing age-restricted products to an underage person.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 2023 as

### *We Card Awareness Month*

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

Signed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2023

Governor Jay Inslee

