

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, pain is one of our nation's most serious health problems; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 50 million Americans live with chronic pain caused by various diseases or disorders, and each year nearly 25 million Americans suffer with acute pain; and

**WHEREAS**, medical knowledge and technology exist to relieve or greatly ease pain, but most pain goes untreated, under treated, or improperly treated, and many healthcare professionals lack sufficient knowledge on how to treat pain effectively; and

**WHEREAS**, people who suffer from chronic pain are often stigmatized and often not informed about their right to effective pain assessment and management; and

**WHEREAS**, *Partners for Understanding Pain* is a consortium of organizations that touch the lives of people with chronic, acute, and cancer pain; and

**WHEREAS**, in Washington State, the Washington-Alaska Pain Initiative is a grass roots organization made up of knowledgeable health care professionals, health care organizations, consumers, and other interested persons, serving as an advocate for people experiencing acute, chronic, and unremitting pain; and

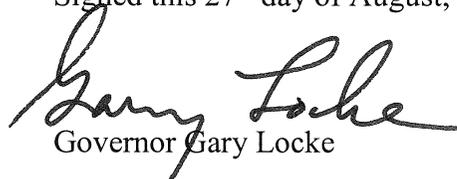
**WHEREAS**, these coalitions seek to increase awareness surrounding the under treatment of pain, to inspire people to work toward increasing access to appropriate pain management, and to improve the quality of life of those suffering from chronic pain;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Gary Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 2004 as

### *Pain Awareness Month*

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004

  
Governor Gary Locke

