



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 17-01

**REAFFIRMING WASHINGTON'S COMMITMENT
TO TOLERANCE, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSIVENESS**

WHEREAS, Washington has a proud history of inclusivity, tolerance, and compassion for all residents. The diversity of our people and cultures is a critical part of who we are as a state;

WHEREAS, our state values the unique differences in our residents and protects diversity. Washington law establishes “the right to be free from discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin,” the right to engage in commerce free from discrimination, including discrimination based on religion, and declares these to be civil rights. RCW 49.60.030;

WHEREAS, nearly one million Washingtonians – one in every seven people in this state – are immigrants. These Washingtonians are an integral part of our communities and workforce;

WHEREAS, Washington's diverse and vibrant economy spans both the east and west sides of our state and encompasses agriculture, aerospace, food processing, timber, construction, health care, technology, tourism, hospitality industries, and the defense sector. As of 2014, immigrants comprised almost 17 percent of Washington's workforce and contributed over \$2.4 billion in state and local taxes. Sixty percent of the Fortune 500 companies based in Washington were founded by immigrants or their children. The contributions of these individuals to our businesses, economy, and community are critical to our success as a state;

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants comprised approximately 4.9 percent of the state's workforce in 2012 and paid \$301.9 million in state and local taxes. If all undocumented immigrants were removed from the state, the state would lose \$14.5 billion in economic activity, \$6.4 billion in gross revenue, and approximately 71,197 jobs;

WHEREAS, as of 2016, Washington is home to over 17,000 Deferred Action of Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients. These are young people who came to this country as children and have been here for a significant period of time. DACA recipients are required to be students or in the workforce, and must have no prior felonies or significant misdemeanors. They are contributing members of our community and to our economy. Almost 15,000 DACA young people are employed in this state. If these individuals were removed from our state, our communities would suffer a significant economic loss, estimated at \$1 billion;

WHEREAS, currently 65,000 immigrants serve in our nation's armed forces and since 2002 greater than 100,000 immigrants have become naturalized citizens following honorable service to our nation. Many of these immigrants are Washingtonians. Their personal sacrifice and contribution to our nation's security should be recognized by all Americans.

WHEREAS, Washington State has outstanding higher education institutions and foreign-born students contribute significantly to these institutions through their cultural diversity and economic contributions. In the 2013-2014 academic year, roughly 21,000 international college students made up 6.2 percent of all college students in the state and contributed \$737 million in to our state's economy in tuition, fees, and living expenses.

WHEREAS, Washington immigrants are an important part of the fabric of our state. Immigrants contribute to Washington's rich culture by bringing their arts, heritage, cuisines, rituals, and festivals to share and celebrate. The cultural influences and creative talents of immigrants can be found in every aspect of our society, from the performing arts and education to the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of our burgeoning industries; and

WHEREAS, we have long tradition of welcoming and supporting those who are the most vulnerable. In 1975, for example, Governor Dan Evans launched a program to settle hundreds of Vietnamese refugees in Washington State. To this day, Washington continues to provide state services to assist those qualified individuals who are most in need of these services, while adhering to state and federal laws and regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, reaffirm my commitment to vigorously support and protect the rights of Washingtonians and to respect diversity and inclusion in our state practices. It is therefore directed that:

1. The state of Washington shall remain a welcoming jurisdiction that embraces diversity with compassion and tolerance and recognizes the value of immigrants;
2. Executive and small cabinet agencies shall continue to provide assistance and services to Washingtonians, regardless of citizenship or legal status, to the extent allowed by law;
3. No executive or small cabinet agency may discriminate against a person based on the person's national origin in violation of RCW 49.60.030;
4. No executive or small cabinet agency may condition provision of services or benefits upon a resident's immigration status, except as required by international, federal or state law;
5. Executive and small cabinet agencies shall ensure their policies comply with Executive Order 16-01, *Privacy Protection and Transparency in State Government*, and that information collected from clients is limited to that necessary to perform agency duties. Policies must ensure that information regarding a person's immigration or citizenship status or place of birth shall not be collected, except as required by federal or state law or state agency policy;
6. No executive or small cabinet agency may inquire into, or request specific documents, in order to ascertain a person's immigration status for the sole purpose of identifying if a person has complied with federal civil immigration laws, including passports, alien registration, or work permits, except as required by federal or state law;
7. No executive or small cabinet agency may use agency or department monies, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel to enforce, or assist in the enforcement or creation of any federal program requiring registration of individuals on the basis of religious affiliation, except as required by federal or state law;

8. No executive or small cabinet agency may use agency or department monies, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel for the purpose of targeting or apprehending persons for violation of federal civil immigration laws, except as required by federal or state law or otherwise authorized by the Governor; and
9. The Washington State Patrol or Department of Corrections, or other executive or small cabinet agency with arrest powers, will act consistently with current federal law and shall not arrest solely for violation of federal civil immigration laws, except as otherwise required by federal or state law or authorized by the Governor. Specifically, no agency may enter into any agreements with the federal government authorizing such authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. §1357).

This Executive Order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or entitlement for any person, nor does it create a cause of action against the state of Washington;

This Executive Order is intended to be consistent with 8 U.S.C. §1373. Should federal or state law change so as to give rise to a conflict with this Executive Order, such provision of this Executive Order shall be inoperative to the sole extent of the conflict.

This order is effective immediately.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington, on this 23rd day of February, 2017, at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

Jay Inslee
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/

Secretary of State