



February 27, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

The Communities of Concern Commission (CoCC) provides this letter of support for the **Poverty Reduction Work Group's 10-year Plan for the Future to reduce poverty and inequality in Washington state**. For the past year and a half, the CoCC has worked diligently with the PRWG to develop a plan that, if implemented, will meaningfully and measurably reduce poverty and inequality in Washington state. We are grateful to you for your support of efforts to reduce poverty, and look forward to bringing the plan to action.

Reducing poverty and inequality is critically important to the mission of Communities of Concern Commission (CoCC). The CoCC believes that our communities must build self-determined capital assets to house and care for our community members and reduce poverty. These capital assets must be community owned and community operated. The strategies and recommendations of the Plan are the foundation to address the root causes of poverty, including racism and racist policies.

We understand that the PRWG co-lead agencies will be conducting a series of community engagement meetings and finalizing the *10-year Plan for the Future* this summer. We look forward to supporting their efforts. In the meantime, we urge your continued support of the strategic plan and taking immediate steps to begin implementing it by:

- Directing state agencies to write action plans to fulfill the strategies outlined in the plan;
- Elevating the influence and expertise of people most affected by poverty in the implementation of the plan;
- Moving forward with the following strategies and their respective recommendations:
 - + Strategy 2-Make equal space for the power and influence of people and communities most affected by poverty and inequality in decision-making,
 - + Strategy 7-Decriminalize poverty and reduce reliance on the criminal justice, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems, and
 - + Strategy 8-Ensure a just transition to the future of work, and
- Funding the PRWG's short-term priorities in the next budget cycle.

Thank you for supporting the Poverty Reduction Work Group and your passion for making Washington state a place where every child, adults, and family can thrive. If we can do anything further to support this effort, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Josephine Tamayo Murray, Executive Director
Communities of Concern Commission

