



**Puget Sound Training Center**  
Helping people turn success into reality

March 4, 2020

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

Dear Governor Inslee,

Please accept Puget Sound Training Center 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 two years, PRWG has worked diligently 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 poverty reduction and look forward to bringing the plan to action.

Reducing poverty and inequality is critically important to the mission of Puget Sound Training Center, which for the past 20 years has worked vigorously to advance career, and economic justice for those furthest from opportunity, especially for immigrants and refugees. The foundation of this plan is rooted in a deep understanding of the barriers experienced by people living in poverty. It provides concrete solutions to eliminate disparities from programs, policies and practices; and therefore, the success of this plan is critical for realizing a vision where every Washingtonian feels empowered with opportunities.

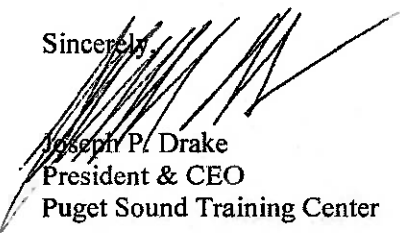
We understand that the PRWG co-lead agencies will be conducting a series of community engagement meetings and finalizing the *10-year Plan for the Future* this summer. We look forward to supporting their efforts. In the meantime, we urge your continued support of the strategic plan and taking immediate 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;
- Supporting initiatives that work to advance pathways for immigrants and refugees with advanced degrees from their home county to become accredited in the U.S.; and
- Funding the PRWG's short-term priorities in the next budget cycle.

We believe these actions will lay a strong foundation for the full implementation of the plan over the next 10 years, and provide immediate, urgent relief for the 1.8 million Washingtonians currently struggling to make ends meet in communities throughout our state.

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.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Drake  
President & CEO  
Puget Sound Training Center