

February 13, 2020

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

Dear Governor Inslee,

I am writing in support of the **Poverty Reduction Work Group's 10-year Plan for the Future to reduce poverty and inequality in Washington**. For the past two years, the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) has served on the Poverty Reduction Work Group (PRWG) to develop a state plan to meaningfully, measurably reduce poverty and inequality in Washington. We appreciate your commitment to reducing poverty and ask for your full consideration of the proposed plan.

No one should have to choose between having enough money to get by, or being safe, but people surviving domestic violence are forced to make that choice every day. Economic instability and limited options for housing keep victims trapped in relationships with violent abusers (Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review). Racism, poverty and the threat of poverty, and other underlying conditions of inequality are impoverishing. This emboldens abusers and allows domestic violence to continue.

When people have critical economic supports (money, good jobs, housing, healthcare, childcare), they have options and can stay in relationships for the right reasons: love, family, community. By making critical economic supports more accessible, the PRWG's 10-year plan and solutions would increase survivors' freedom, options, and community connection.

We look forward to supporting the efforts of the PRWG's co-lead agencies to conduct a series of community engagement meetings and finalize the plan this summer. In the meantime, we urge your continued support of the strategic plan, including the following immediate steps:

- 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 plan's implementation; and
- Funding the PRWG's short-term priorities in the next budget cycle.

Thank you for your support and commitment to a Washington where all people can thrive.

Sincerely,



Judy Chen
Executive Director