WHEREAS, there are more than 1.5 million individuals living in 16,000 nursing homes; and 1 million individuals living in 50,000 board and care/assisted living facilities in the U.S. with the number of residents expected to almost double by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 guarantees residents their individual rights in order to promote and maintain their dignity and autonomy; and

WHEREAS, all residents should be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, we wish to honor and celebrate these citizens, to recognize their rich individuality, and reaffirm their sense of safety, as well as the right to have a say in their care; and

WHEREAS, individuals and groups across the country will be celebrating Residents’ Rights Month with the theme “Speak Out Against Elder Abuse” to emphasize the importance of recognizing and addressing this serious issue through immediate action, facility practices, public policy and resident-centered decision-making;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 2013 as

Residents’ Rights Month

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 21st day of October, 2013

Governor Jay Inslee