GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY PROCLAMATION Adoption Day – November 17, 2023

WHEREAS, Grays Harbor County recognizes the importance of giving children permanent, safe and loving families through adoption; and

WHEREAS, 5,531 children are currently in foster care in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, 1,028 foster children in Washington today have legally lost their parents forever and are waiting to be adopted into permanent families; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court Established the Commission on Children in Foster Care to study and improve court processes in order to help foster children move more quickly into permanent homes; and

WHEREAS, National Adoption Day was launched in November 2000 by the Alliance for Children's Rights to raise awareness that thousands of foster children need adoptive families, to build collaboration among local adoption agencies, courts and advocacy organizations, and to finalize foster adoptions; and

WHEREAS, 2023 will mark the twenty-third year Washington State courts have celebrated National Adoption Day statewide under the auspices of the Foster Care Commissioner, the Department of Social and Health Services, the Superior Court Judges' Association, the Northwest Adoption Exchange, and the Washington State Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, as of 2000, 30,025 children have been adopted into new families during these well-reported community celebration events over the past twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, this effort raises awareness, helps provide children an opportunity to become part of stable and permanent homes and will encourage more Washington families to make a difference in the life of a child through adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grays Harbor County Commissioners proclaim November 17, 2023, as National Adoption Day in Grays Harbor County and in so doing, urge all citizens to join in a national effort to raise awareness of the importance of adoption.

DATED this 24 day of October, 2023.

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY

Jill Warne, Chair, District 1

ALLESI.

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Vickie Raines, District 3

Date: 10-24-23