

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL  
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## WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

July 29, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 4002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

Whatcom County continues to work hard in the fight to control the spread of COVID-19 in our community and have been successful in protecting our vulnerable citizens residing in nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout the county.

We consistently hear from a constituent whose wife lives in a memory care unit in an assisted living facility. He has not been able to see her or visit with her since March. He is fearful that she will not remember him or think she has been abandoned by her husband of many years. This is a heartbreaking situation and surely applies to many more in our community.

Many states have found ways to allow a close family member, such as a spouse, to visit their loved ones living in congregate care facilities and we would like to encourage you to work with your staff to find ways to safely allow these visits in Washington.

Please see the following link on how other states are finding solutions to this situation:

<https://khn.org/news/states-allow-in-person-nursing-home-visits-as-families-charge-residents-die-of-broken-hearts/>

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barry Buchanan".

Barry Buchanan, Chair  
Whatcom County Council

c: Whatcom County Councilmembers  
The Executives Office  
Whatcom County Health Department  
Richard Pylilo  
AB2020-332

BB/lrb