



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS MONTH**

**2017**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Helen Keller was an accomplished, respected, and renowned American who was deaf-blind; and

**WHEREAS**, the combined loss of vision and hearing is one of the most severe multi-sensory disabilities, and affects more than 30,000 people in North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, people who are deaf-blind live and work in our communities and are productive citizens, neighbors, and family members; and

**WHEREAS**, in commemoration of the anniversary of the birth of Helen Keller on June 27, 1880, and at the request of Congress in 1984 through Joint Resolution 261, President Ronald Reagan issued the first proclamation designating the last week of June as Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week; and

**WHEREAS**, in North Carolina this year, the entire month of June is set aside to increase awareness of the needs, abilities, and potential of our citizens who are deaf-blind or have combined significant vision and hearing loss, and to recognize Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination, and achievement for other individuals who are deaf and blind; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, Division of Services for the Blind, the Department of Public Instruction, and the Deaf-Blind Project join the North Carolina Deaf-Blind Associates and the Helen Keller National Center in encouraging increased awareness, understanding, and support for individuals who have combined hearing and vision loss, and in recognizing the many contributions made by people who are deaf-blind in communities across our state;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June, 2017, as **"HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS MONTH"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this first day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.