



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER

GOVERNOR

DEAF AWARENESS MONTH

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the deaf population includes a wide range of individuals, from those who were born profoundly deaf and use American Sign Language (ASL) as a primary means of communication, to those with a degree of hearing loss who use hearing aids or other forms of amplifications and communication modes; and

WHEREAS, ASL is a valid linguistic means of conveying thoughts, ideas, and emotions; it is a fully operating, functional language with its own syntax, morphology, and structure; and

WHEREAS, people who identify themselves as Deaf belong to a cultural and linguistic community with shared language, social norms, rules of behavior, and history; and

WHEREAS, to commemorate the first congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, which was held in September of 1951, the State of North Carolina recognizes the entire month of September as Deaf Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services – through the Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing and their Regional Centers – provides advocacy for communication access; Deaf culture and ASL awareness; information, consultation, and referral; and other services to people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deaf-Blind, and their communities across our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2017, as “**DEAF AWARENESS MONTH**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





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 sixth day of September 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.