



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS MONTH

2019

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 a severe disability; according to a 2019 report from the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults, more than 83,000 people in North Carolina experience some degree of significant combined vision and hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of all people in North Carolina to encourage the full participation of individuals with multi-sensory disabilities in our economy; and

WHEREAS, by fostering employment, promoting housing, and providing recreational options for people who are deaf-blind, we can help to ensure they have the opportunities and resources they need for a productive life in the community of their choice; and

WHEREAS, today, people who are deaf-blind are attending college, participating in social activities, managing their everyday lives, and actively contributing to their communities through employment and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary to increase awareness of the abilities and potential of North Carolinians who are deaf-blind, or have significant combined vision and hearing loss, and to recognize Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination, and achievement for all who are deaf-blind; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, including the Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Division of Services for the Blind, and the RHA Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services within the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services; the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, including the Deaf-Blind Project in the Exceptional Children's Division; and the North Carolina Deaf-Blind Associates join the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults 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 to communities across our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim June, 2019, as "**HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND 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 thirty-first day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-third.