



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

DEAF AWARENESS MONTH

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the population of adults with hearing loss in North Carolina is projected to increase by 33 percent, from 1.2 million in 2015 to 1.65 million in 2030; and

WHEREAS, hearing loss is one of the most frequently occurring congenital conditions, and about 2 to 3 out of every 1,000 children born in the United States has a detectable level of hearing loss in one or both ears; and

WHEREAS, all of North Carolina's birthing and neonatal facilities offer initial new born hearing screening services prior to discharge; more than 99 percent of infants are screened for the presence of permanent hearing loss, resulting in more than 200 infants being diagnosed each year, with about the same number acquiring hearing loss by the time they enter school; and

WHEREAS, the Deaf population of North Carolina includes individuals born profoundly deaf who use American Sign Language (ASL) as a primary means of communication, as well as those with a range of hearing loss who use hearing aids, assistive listening devices, or other forms of amplifications and communication modes; and

WHEREAS, American Sign Language (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 World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, which was held in September of 1951, North Carolina will join in recognizing 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 services including advocacy for communication access, consultation, Deaf culture and ASL awareness, information, and referral to people who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, or Deafblind, and their communities in our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September, 2019, 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 twenty-fourth day of September 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-fourth.