



**STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Despite the daily challenges that they face, people who are deaf or hard of hearing have made countless contributions to our state. Their unique upbringings, stories, and experiences augment our lives, making the Lone Star State stronger and more welcoming.

In Texas, we know that it is not our challenges that define us, but rather how we rise above them. The Lone Star State has been deeply enriched by deaf Texans such as Donna Sue Barker, who attended Texas School for the Deaf and represented the U.S.A. in the Deaflympics, and Erastus "Deaf" Smith, who is legendary for his role in the Texas Revolution. Thriving despite their challenges, deaf Texans exemplify the indomitable spirit that makes us famous throughout the world. Whether they are in our hospitals, schools, or workforce, they all play a role in our society.

During the month of September and hereafter, I encourage all Texans to support and celebrate those who are deaf or hard of hearing. I thank all professionals and educators who continue to advance their interests. Together, we can ensure a better, brighter future for the Lone Star State.

Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim September 23–29, 2024, to be

## **Deaf Awareness Week**



in Texas and urge all Texans to observe the occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature this the 4th day of September, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

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Governor of Texas