



STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

As our state and nation have faced the unprecedented challenges of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and we look toward a brighter future, we have often been reminded that resiliency and perseverance are at the heart of what makes our state the strongest in the nation. Texans with disabilities, including our DeafBlind community, have always exemplified the indomitable spirit and can-do attitude of Texas, and our continued support of Texans who are deaf-blind is essential to the future of the Lone Star State.

Helen Keller, who lost her sight and hearing at the age of 19 months due to an unknown illness, was an exceptionally influential American whose inspiring life, incredible personal gifts, and significant work helped people across our nation understand the vital importance of bringing awareness to the DeafBlind community. As a child, Ms. Keller developed her own signs with the support of her teacher, Anne Sullivan, and she grew into a woman who read five languages, attended Radcliffe College at Harvard University, wrote books, and traveled the world. Her life and fierce advocacy for people with disabilities showed America and the world that the accomplishments and achievements of people who are deaf-blind know no limits.

Because of Ms. Keller and other courageous individuals, we have made significant progress in ensuring that our state and nation encourage and support individuals with multisensory disabilities, such as by supporting employment access, housing and recreational options, and supportive technological devices for people who are deaf-blind, so that they have the opportunity to fully participate in our communities. It is crucial that individuals who are deaf-blind have greater access to specially trained interveners and support service providers to help people with disabilities communicate, access information and participate fully in their communities. While Texas has made promising strides toward a better future, there is still work to be done.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to participate in this year's deaf-blindness awareness campaign by commemorating Helen Keller's life and recognizing this year's campaign theme of "TrailBlazer, BigThinker, GoGetter, DeafBlind," as well as by reflecting on the many contributions of Texans with multisensory disabilities and how we can all better support our fellow Texans. As Texans who share that same ambitious spirit, we all have important roles to play in building the Texas of tomorrow.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim June 27-July 3, 2021, to be

Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this the 23rd day of June, 2021.


Governor of Texas