



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, approximately 2.4 million people in the United States have a combined hearing and vision loss; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the State of Tennessee to encourage the full participation of Americans with multi-sensory disabilities in our economy by encouraging employment, housing, and recreational options for people who are deaf-blind, thus maximizing their well-being and contribution to their communities; and

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

WHEREAS, Helen Keller was one of the most accomplished, respected and renowned Americans who was also deaf-blind; and

WHEREAS, The Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults was established by a unanimous act of Congress 50 years ago; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate and necessary to promote the abilities and potential of our fellow citizens who are deaf-blind, or severely hearing and vision impaired, and to recognize Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination, and achievement for other individuals who are deaf-blind;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of June 25 - July 1, 2017 as

*Helen Keller Deaf-Blind
Awareness Week*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-second day of June, 2017.

Bill Haslam

Governor

Leigh Roush

Secretary of State