



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, Helen Keller was an accomplished, respected, and renowned American who was deaf-blind; and

**WHEREAS**, the combined loss of vision and hearing is one of the most severe of all disabilities and affects approximately than 2.4 million people in America; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the interest of the state of Tennessee to encourage the full participation of citizens with multi-sensory disabilities in our economy by fostering the employment of, and promoting of housing and recreational options for, people who are deaf-blind - thus maximizing their opportunities 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 life and actively engaged in their communities through employment and civic activities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is highly appropriate and necessary to publicize the abilities and potential of our fellow citizens who are deaf-blind, or have combined significant vision and hearing loss, and to recognize Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination and achievement for other individuals who are deaf-blind; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Tennessee Regulatory Authority, Bridges, Deaf Connect, Tennessee Deaf-Blind Project and the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) collaborate together 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 in communities across our state;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of June 24 - June 30, 2018 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 thirty-first day of May, 2018.

*Bill Haslam*

Governor

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Secretary of State