



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 as many as 2.4 million people in America and 70,000 in Tennessee; 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 and that Helen Keller is only one example of courage, hope, determination and achievement that is evidenced throughout this diverse deaf-blind population; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of June 27 - July 3, 2021 as

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-seventh day of May, 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Vignitt".

Secretary of State

