

WHEREAS; first recognized in 1984, Deafblind Awareness Week was established to commemorate deafblind author and educator Helen Keller; and

WHEREAS; deafblindness is a unique information-gathering disability that incorporates the dual-sensory loss of both sight and hearing, significantly impacting the lives of hundreds of children and adults along with their families in Wisconsin, requiring specialized support and intervention to ensure their full participation in society and education; and

WHEREAS; providing access to appropriate services and accommodation, including using interveners, Support Service Providers (SSPs), and interpreters who serve as a bridge to communication, ensures that deafblind Wisconsinites can fully participate in all aspects of society, including education, employment, recreation, and community life; and

WHEREAS; in addition to the valuable contributions of nonprofit deafblind organizations across the state, the Wisconsin Deafblind Technical Assistance Project, which is operated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, is a vital resource for deafblind Wisconsinites from birth through age 21 and is an effective partner in helping to address the unique needs of Wisconsin’s deafblind children; and

WHEREAS; Deafblind Awareness Month celebrates the resilience, strength, and accomplishments of individuals who are deafblind while committing to increasing public understanding, accessibility, and inclusion for all people regardless of sensory challenges and encouraging advocacy for improved resources, services, and opportunities that empower deafblind individuals to live independent, fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated individuals, advocates, and organizations across the state in encouraging an increased awareness of the abilities and potential of Wisconsinites who are deafblind and recognizing the contributions, strength, perseverance, and achievements of the courageous and persevering individuals in the deafblind community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 2026 as

DEAFBLIND AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 8th day of May 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State