

WHEREAS; originally recognized by President Ronald Reagan, Deafblind Awareness Week was first introduced in 1984 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 and impacts the lives of hundreds of children and adults, along with their families, in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; providing access to appropriate services and accommodations, including through the use of interveners, Support Service Providers (SSPs), and interpreters who serve as a bridge to communication, allows deafblind Wisconsinites the opportunity for full participation in all aspects of society, including education, employment, recreation, and community; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin Deafblind Technical Assistance Project (WDBTAP), which is operated by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, is a vital resource for deafblind Wisconsinites from birth through high school and is an effective partner in helping to address the unique needs of Wisconsin's deafblind children; and

WHEREAS; the Center for Deaf-Blind Persons, a non-profit agency in Wisconsin, is a critical resource in Wisconsin working to support the unique needs of deafblind adults in living independent, productive, and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin joins the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youth and Adults in encouraging an increased awareness of the abilities and the potential of Wisconsinites who are deafblind and recognizing Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination, and achievement for all who are deafblind;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim June 25 through July 1 2023 as

DEAFBLIND AWARENESS WEEK

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 15th day of June 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State