

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Deaf-blindness is a serious disability that affects over one million Americans; and

WHEREAS: It is in the best interest of Arkansas to encourage the full participation of Americans with multisensory disabilities in our economy by improving their options for employment, housing and their opportunities for a productive life in their community of choice; and

WHEREAS: Those who are both deaf and blind should have the opportunity to use their skills and to overcome the significant barriers facing them with the support and understanding from employers, affording them the opportunity to work, choose their standard of living and enabling them to live with dignity, self-respect and independence; and

WHEREAS: It is important to raise awareness of the abilities and potential of our fellow citizens who are deaf-blind or who have severely impaired vision and/or hearing; and

WHEREAS: Helen Keller was an American author and lecturer who was both deaf and blind. She was a gifted, respected and renowned individual who was also the first deaf-blind person to graduate college; and

WHEREAS: Helen Keller's legacy is one of perseverance, determination and courage, and has served as an inspiration to many Americans, especially those faced with the challenges of living with deaf-blindness; and

WHEREAS: This week highlights the need to build partnerships between employers and job seekers who are deaf-blind and also serves to emphasize the positive impact we can have when we work together to enhance the lives of individuals who are deaf-blind;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim June 26th through July 2nd, 2016, as

HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS WEEK

across the State, and I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination and achievement for other individuals who are deaf-blind.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 15th day of June, in the year of our Lord 2016.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State