

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: It is both appropriate and necessary to bring awareness to the public about the abilities and potential of our citizens who have multisensory disabilities, and to pay tribute to Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination, and achievement for other individuals with multisensory disabilities; and

WHEREAS: Helen Keller, who was both deaf and blind, was an American author, activist, and lecturer. She was the first deaf-blind person to graduate from college and remains one of the most gifted, respected, and renowned Americans in history; and

WHEREAS: Deaf-blindness is one of the most severe of all disabilities. Forced into institutions or facilities incapable of dealing effectively with this condition, dual-disability children often face a life of fear and isolation; and

WHEREAS: We celebrate the anniversary of Helen Keller's birthday with the theme: "Investing in youth to enrich our future"; and

WHEREAS: For those who want to work and who have many skills to offer, deaf-blindness can pose significant barriers, particularly in communication and in understanding and support from employers; however, employment contributes to self-esteem and financial well-being; and

WHEREAS: By fostering employment opportunities and by promoting housing and recreational options in the communities of our State and our country, adults with dual-sensory loss can choose their preferred lifestyles and can function in their lives with dignity, independence, and self-respect;

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 25th through June 29th, 2018, as

HELEN KELLER DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS WEEK

across the State, and I urge my fellow citizens to promote awareness, encouragement, and support throughout our workplaces and our communities for those with multisensory disabilities to live full and productive lives.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 23rd day of May, in the year of our Lord 2018.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State