



State of Iowa

Executive Department

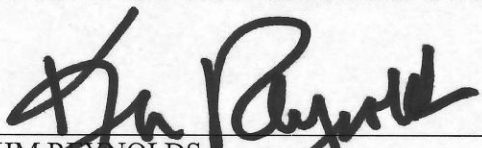
IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS**, an estimated 2.4 million Americans experience combined hearing and vision loss, a population that includes individuals who identify as DeafBlind, spanning all ages, backgrounds, and communities; and in Iowa, approximately 10,000 live with DeafBlindness or combined hearing and vision loss; and
- WHEREAS**, DeafBlind individuals contribute to society as educators, advocates, professionals, artists, and leaders, enriching our communities through their unique perspectives and experiences, pursuing higher education, advancing in their careers, participating in civic life, and driving innovation in accessibility; and
- WHEREAS**, DeafBlind individuals access the world through a range of communication methods, including tactile sign language, Protactile language, haptics, fingerspelling, braille, speech, and assistive technologies, and awareness of these methods enables professionals, providers, and community members to communicate more effectively and respectfully with DeafBlind individuals; and
- WHEREAS**, full participation in education, employment, and community life depends on accessible communication, appropriate accommodations, and communities that embrace diverse communication methods and accessible design; and
- WHEREAS**, the 2026 DeafBlind Awareness Week theme, "Connected by Touch: Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges," recognizes that touch is the foundation of connection for the DeafBlind community in their everyday interactions, enabling DeafBlind individuals to communicate, navigate, learn, work, and thrive; and
- WHEREAS**, DeafBlind Awareness Week 2026 presents an opportunity for communities, organizations, and individuals across the State of Iowa to deepen their understanding of DeafBlindness and take meaningful steps toward greater inclusion and accessibility;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Kim Reynolds, the Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim
June 25th – July 1st, 2026 as:

DEAFBLIND AWARENESS WEEK

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO
SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE
AT DES MOINES THIS 23rd DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR
OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX.



KIM REYNOLDS

