

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

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

WHEREAS, in Kansas, approximately 23,238 Kansans live with DeafBlindness or combined hearing and vision loss; 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 presents an opportunity for communities, organizations, and individuals across Kansas to deepen their understanding of DeafBlindness and take meaningful steps toward greater inclusion and accessibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim June 25 – July 1, 2026, as

DeafBlind Awareness Week

in the state of Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.



DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka
under the Great Seal of
the State this 29th day of
May 2026

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly
Secretary of State

Jerrold Schuch
Assistant Secretary of State