

# Proclamation

by

Andy Beshear  
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



*To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*

- WHEREAS, Helen Keller was one of the most accomplished, respected and renowned DeafBlind Americans, and combined hearing and vision loss has been estimated to affect more than 2.4 million people in the United States, including approximately 50,000 in the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and
- WHEREAS, It is in the interest of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to encourage the full participation of individuals with dual sensory disabilities in our economy by fostering the employment of, and promoting housing and recreational options for, people who are DeafBlind – thus maximizing their opportunities for a productive life in the community of their choice. Today, people who are DeafBlind are attending college, participating in social activities, managing their everyday life, and actively engaged in their communities through employment and civic activities; and
- WHEREAS, It is highly appropriate and necessary to publicize the abilities and potential of our fellow citizens who are DeafBlind and to recognize Helen Keller as a guiding example of courage, hope, determination and achievement for other individuals who are DeafBlind; and
- WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Kentucky DeafBlind Interagency Team includes the Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the University of Kentucky DeafBlind Project, the Department of Education, the Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, and the Helen Keller National Center Southeast. This team works collaboratively to encourage increased awareness, understanding, and support for individuals who have combined hearing and vision loss and together with the community strives to build capacity for our residents in the Commonwealth of Kentucky;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDY BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim June 25 to July 1, 2026, as

## DEAFBLIND AWARENESS WEEK

in Kentucky.

Done in the City of Frankfort on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six and in the 235<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

Handwritten signature of Andy Beshear in black ink.

ANDY BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Michael G. Adams in black ink.

Michael G. Adams  
Secretary of State



RECEIVED AND FILED

DATE June 3, 2026

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MICHAEL G. ADAMS

SECRETARY OF STATE

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BY Katherine Ellis