

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

DEAFBLIND AWARENESS WEEK JUNE 25 - JULY 1, 2026

- 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 Maryland, approximately 30,000 residents 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; 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, health care, transportation, civic life, and community activities depends on accessible communication, appropriate accommodations, and environments designed to support equitable access for all; 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 individuals, organizations, businesses, schools, and government agencies throughout Maryland to increase awareness of DeafBlindness, celebrate the contributions of DeafBlind individuals, and promote greater accessibility, inclusion, and equity for all.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim JUNE 25 - JULY 1, 2026 as DEAFBLIND AWARENESS WEEK in Maryland, and do comment this observation to all of our citizens.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 25th day of June
Two Thousand and twenty-six

Wes Moore
G. Governor

Susan C. Lee
Secretary of State

