

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor



**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING**

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For Immediate Release

**GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS JUNE 26–JULY 2, 2011
HELEN KELLER DEAFBLIND AWARENESS WEEK**

Event raises awareness about deafblindness and the people who live with a combined vision and hearing loss.

BALTIMORE, MD (June 24, 2011) -- Governor Martin O'Malley has proclaimed June 26–July 2, 2011 as Helen Keller Deafblind Awareness Week. The proclamation calls upon all Marylanders to observe the week and recognize the abilities and potential of our fellow citizens who are deafblind or have severe vision and hearing loss.

"In Maryland, we are united in our belief in the dignity of every individual," said Governor O'Malley. "It is in the interest of the State to encourage the full participation of Marylanders with multi-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."

The purpose of Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week 2011, a week proclaimed by Congressional resolutions and Presidential signature in 1985, is to change the assumption that Helen Keller is the only recognizable person who is deafblind. The intent of the week is to show the diversity, accomplishments, and potential of today's deafblind community. As a part of Maryland Helen Keller Deafblind Awareness Week, Marylanders are encouraged to increase awareness, understanding, and support for individuals who have combined hearing and vision loss.

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