

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Usher Syndrome is a genetic disorder that results in hearing loss and visual impairment, and is the leading cause of combined deafness and blindness; and

WHEREAS, Usher Syndrome impacts three major senses in the body:

Vision: Vision loss in Usher Syndrome is caused by a progressive vision disorder known as retinitis pigmentosa (RP), which causes light-sensing cells in the retina to gradually deteriorate, initially resulting in night blindness, followed by a narrowing of the visual field, commonly known as tunnel vision.

Hearing: Children with Usher Syndrome are born with or develop hearing loss.

Balance: Balance is achieved and maintained through input from your eyes, the vestibular organs in the inner ear and the sensory systems of the body, such as the skin, muscles and joints, thus people with Usher Syndrome suffer from severe balance issues due to vestibular dysfunction; and

WHEREAS, there are three clinical types of Usher Syndrome which are distinguished by the age of onset and the severity of signs and symptoms, and there are at least eleven different genetic variations that result in Usher syndrome; and

WHEREAS, because of limited public awareness, those affected with Usher syndrome may suffer from depression, anxiety, isolation, loss of independence; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no cure for Usher Syndrome; and

WHEREAS, the worldwide Usher Syndrome community is uniting to spread public awareness of the condition with an annual day of recognition on the 3rd Saturday of September.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim September 16, 2023, as

USHER SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this thirty-first day of August in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Eighth.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE