

# Proclamation

by

**Andy Beshear**  
Governor

of the

**Commonwealth of Kentucky**



*To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*

- WHEREAS, Hearing loss is the third most common chronic physical condition in the U.S., twice as prevalent as diabetes or cancer; and
- WHEREAS, There are nearly 700,000 deaf and hard of hearing residents in Kentucky, and untreated hearing loss is associated with poorer overall health, including cardiovascular risk, cognitive changes, diabetes, balance disorders, social isolation, and depression; and
- WHEREAS, Sixty percent of veterans experience loss of hearing, ringing, roaring, or buzzing sounds, which are among the most common permanent service-related disabilities; and
- WHEREAS, About 2 to 3 out of every 1,000 children are born deaf or hard-of-hearing, and screening and follow-up care is critical for speech and language development and for families to access early intervention services so that children can live full and productive lives; and
- WHEREAS, Potential economic hardship is possible, as only 57.1% of adults with hearing loss are employed nationally, compared to 73.3% with typical hearing, and people with hearing loss earn about 25% less compared with typical-hearing peers; and
- WHEREAS, Hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive listening devices, transparent masks, captions, telecommunication adaptations, and self-advocacy tips can greatly improve quality of life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDY BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim June 7-13, 2026, as

## HEARING HEALTH WEEK

in Kentucky.



Done in the City of Frankfort on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six and in the 234<sup>th</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

*Andy Beshear*

ANDY BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR

*Michael G. Adams*

Michael G. Adams  
Secretary of State