

*State of Maine*



**WHEREAS**, the United Nations, the World Federation of the Deaf, the National Association of the Deaf and 129 National Associations of the Deaf throughout the world simultaneously participate in the Deaf World Week Celebration; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Maine and its citizens observe the last full week of September as Deaf Culture Week in accordance with Sec. 1.1 MRSA § 132; and

**WHEREAS**, the statute recognizes the sociolinguistic community of Deaf people as a distinct group, rich with its own language, traditions, cultural values and norms, history, folklore, literature, and a network of organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, American Sign Language, a visual-gestural language, is recognized as the official state language of Deaf people; and

**WHEREAS**, public schools and communities throughout the State are urged to observe Deaf Culture Week with appropriate ceremony and cultural study; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations, representatives, and friends of the Deaf community join in observing this significant event in recognition of the Deaf community, Deaf culture, American Sign Language, and the celebration of the Deaf population;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby recognize September 22nd through the 28th, 2019 as

## **Deaf Culture Week**

throughout the State of Maine, and I urge all citizens to recognize this observance.



In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this tenth day of September Two Thousand Nineteen

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Matthew Dunlap  
Secretary of State  
TRUE ATTESTED COPY