

**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 SEPTEMBER 18–24, 2011  
DEAF AWARENESS WEEK**

*Event raises awareness about the deaf community and deaf culture.*

BALTIMORE, MD (September 19, 2011) -- Governor Martin O'Malley has proclaimed September 18–24, 2011 as Deaf Awareness Week. The proclamation calls upon all Marylanders to observe the week and recognize the abilities and potential of our fellow citizens who are Deaf.

"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 work together to ensure that those who are Deaf have equal and full access to resources, services, and opportunities for participation in all aspects of community life."

The purpose of Deaf Awareness Week, also known as International Week of the Deaf, is to celebrate the culture, heritage, and language unique to Deaf people of the world. The intent of the week is to show the diversity, accomplishments, and potential of the Deaf community. As a part of Deaf Awareness Week, Marylanders are encouraged to increase awareness, understanding, and support for individuals who are Deaf.

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