Whereas: Diversity, equity, and inclusion make Oregon a better place for all Oregonians to live and thrive; and

Whereas: Oregonians who are blind and visually impaired enjoy all of the rights, benefits, and privileges of living, working, playing, and traveling in our great State; and

Whereas: The white cane and guide dogs, in addition to being practical tools for mobility and identification, serve as symbols of independence for individuals who are blind or visually impaired; and

Whereas: Oregonians of all ages who are blind or visually impaired have the right to be safe while traveling and engaging in their daily activities in the community; and

Whereas: October 15th has been designated as a day of awareness, education, and celebration of white canes and guide dogs for independent and safe travel; and

Whereas: We call upon public officials, businesses, civic organizations, and all people in Oregon to join together in working to ensure that the benefits and privileges of living in our great State are available to persons who are blind or visually impaired.

Now, therefore: I, Kate Brown, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim October 15, 2019 to be OREGON WHITE CANE DAY in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, September 11, 2019.

Signed, Kate Brown, Governor

Signed Bev Clarno, Secretary of State