

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Usher syndrome is a genetic disorder, and is the leading cause of combined deafness and blindness; and

WHEREAS, Usher syndrome, which is incurable presently, 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). RP causes the 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: Type 1, Type 2 and Type 3, which are distinguished by the severity and age when the signs and symptoms appear. One cannot determine the genetic type by clinical testing, as DNA testing is the only reliable way of determining the true genetic type; and

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

WHEREAS, the Usher syndrome community is uniting around the world to spread public awareness but especially to be recognized annually on the 3rd Saturday of September.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Katie Hobbs, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim September 20, 2025, 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 twenty-ninth of August in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Fiftieth.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE