

WHEREAS, Usher Syndrome is a genetic disorder caused by a mutation in any one of at least 9 confirmed and 2 suspected genes resulting in a combination of hearing loss and visual impairment, and is a leading cause of combined deafness and blindness; and

WHEREAS, more than 400,000 people are affected by this genetic disorder worldwide, with as many as 25,000 of those living in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Usher syndrome, which does not currently have a cure, impacts three major senses in the body, including vision, hearing, and balance; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, children with Usher syndrome are born with or develop hearing loss. It is estimated that upward of 10 percent of people with congenital bilateral, sensorineural hearing loss have Usher syndrome; and

WHEREAS, balance is achieved and maintained through input from the 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 experience severe balance issues due to vestibular dysfunction; and

WHEREAS, there are at least eleven different genetic types and three clinical types of Usher syndrome, including: Type 1, Type 2 and Type 3. The types are distinguished by the severity and age when the signs and symptoms appear; and

WHEREAS, one cannot determine the genetic type of Usher syndrome by clinical testing, as DNA testing is the only reliable way of determining the true genetic type; and

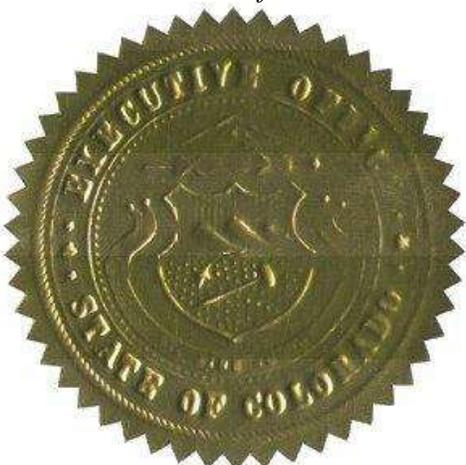
WHEREAS, it's important to generate awareness about Usher syndrome so that more individuals can recognize it at an earlier state;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim September 16, 2023, as

USHER SYNDROME AWARENESS DAY

in the State of Colorado.

*GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of Colorado,
this sixteenth day of September, 2023*



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*Jared Polis
Governor*