State of Connecticut

By His Excellency Dannel P. Malloy, Governor:

An Official Statement

WHEREAS, Connecticut’s citizens who are blind or visually impaired contribute much to our state; and

WHEREAS, white canes and guide dogs have come to symbolize equal rights and equal access for persons with blindness; and

WHEREAS, they are also reminders of the many achievements and tremendous potential of persons who are blind and of their willingness to live independently and compete in the marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut state law secures the right of persons with blindness to carry and use a white cane or be accompanied by a guide dog along our streets and thoroughfares, in residential settings, on public transportation, in public accommodations and in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, our law also requires that motorists exercise appropriate caution when approaching someone using a white cane or guide dog; and

WHEREAS, October 15th has been known as White Cane Safety Day across the United States since it was declared by Congress and the President in 1964; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut encourages all its citizens to join in the effort to keep our streets and roadways safe for all pedestrians who are blind;

WHEREAS, Connecticut law further encourages employers, in both the public and private sector, to explore and utilize the skills and potential of Connecticut’s citizens who are blind, to recognize their capabilities and to respect their worth as individuals; now

THEREFORE, to celebrate and honor the past achievements and future potential of all of Connecticut’s citizens with blindness, I, Dannel P. Malloy, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2015 as

Blind americans Equality day

in the State of Connecticut.