



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS, in 1967, New Mexico proudly became the first state in the nation to enact the White Cane Law, setting a benchmark for accessibility and inclusion; and*

*WHEREAS the White Cane Law, codified as 28-7-1 NMSA (1978), articulates the State's commitment to empowering individuals who are blind or have low vision, enabling their full participation in the social, economic, and cultural fabric of our vibrant communities; and*

*WHEREAS, this law affirms that individuals who are blind or have low vision possess the same rights as all citizens, ensuring their unrestricted access to streets, highways, sidewalks, public buildings, and all public spaces throughout New Mexico; and*

*WHEREAS, the White Cane Law guarantees individuals who are blind or have low vision equitable access to transportation, accommodation, and services, including common carriers, hotels, places of public accommodation, and all venues that welcome the public; and*

*WHEREAS, the law mandates that all drivers in New Mexico exercise the utmost caution to prevent harm to pedestrians utilizing a white cane or accompanied by a guide dog, reinforcing our collective responsibility to ensure safety and respect; and*

*WHEREAS, it is essential for all New Mexicans to recognize the significance of the White Cane Law, understanding that the white cane is not merely a mobility tool but also a symbol of safety, independence, and the contributions that individuals with disabilities bring to our communities; and*

*WHEREAS, by fostering awareness and appreciation for the capabilities of those who are blind or have low vision, we can cultivate a more inclusive and supportive environment, enrich the lives of all New Mexicans and strengthen our state's economy through diversity and innovation.*

*NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, as:*

## ***"White Cane Awareness Day"***

*throughout the state of New Mexico.*

Attest:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver  
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this  
1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2025.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal  
of the State of New Mexico.

  
Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor