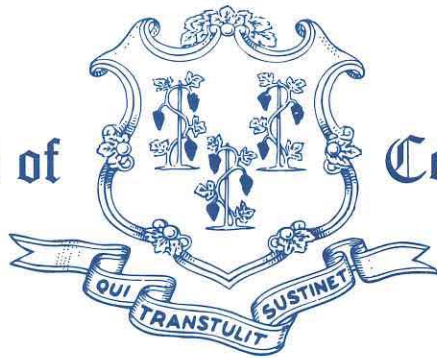


State of Connecticut



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an  
**Official Statement**

WHEREAS, since 1964, the United States has set aside one day each year to honor the accomplishments of people who are blind or visually impaired – and once again this year, Connecticut joins in that tradition of highlighting the important contributions they make to the success of our state and our society; and

WHEREAS, in every way, Connecticut residents who are blind or visually impaired enrich our cities, towns and neighborhoods, and demonstrate the inherent worth of every person; and

WHEREAS, our government and people are committed to equal access and equal opportunity for all of its citizens – including people with blindness or visual impairments; and

WHEREAS, we call on all employers and businesses to recognize the abilities and skills of people who are blind or visually impaired, and call on all of Connecticut's citizens to help ensure that they can 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 is dedicated to the safety of all pedestrians and requires that motorists exercise caution when near anyone using a white cane or guide dog; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut will now be sponsoring new technology – *Aira* – that helps people who are blind navigate in their surroundings whereby they are linked by smartphone to someone who can tell them where to walk, where to move, and can also help them navigate through our state bus and rail transit systems; and

WHEREAS, October 15<sup>th</sup> – previously known as White Cane Safety Day across the United States, since it was declared by Congress and the President in 1964 – is now called Blind American Equality Day; now

THEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, in order to celebrate and honor the past achievements and future potential of all of Connecticut's citizens with blindness, do hereby officially proclaim Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 as

**BLIND AMERICANS EQUALITY DAY**

in the State of Connecticut.



*Ned Lamont*

GOVERNOR