WHEREAS:

One hundred years ago, Minnesota State Services for the Blind (SSB) was created to help serve all blind, visually impaired, or Deafblind Minnesotans to achieve vocational and personal independence; and

WHEREAS:

Blindness is a natural part of the human experience, one of hundreds of characteristics that, taken together, mold each of us into a unique human being; and

WHEREAS:

Almost all the physical limitations associated with blindness can be overcome by learning and using alternative techniques for doing without sight what you would do with sight; and

WHEREAS:

With appropriate education, training, and opportunity, people who are blind can achieve at work, be independent in their home and community, have and take care of a family, pay taxes, and be in every way a contributing member of society who can compete equally with their sighted neighbors; and

WHEREAS:

Everyone has different dreams, expectations, attitudes, aptitudes, potential, and possibilities, so an important element of Minnesota SSB programs is customer choice. SSB’s mission is to encourage high expectations and independence and provide the services needed to achieve customer goals while respecting customer choice; and

WHEREAS:

Over the past 100 years, Minnesota SSB has continued to take important steps to reduce the social stigma of blindness, and the negative preconceived notions about vision loss that persist simply do not ring true for the people SSB works with daily; and

WHEREAS:

Minnesota recognizes the historical advocates, stakeholders, and other vocational rehabilitation groups who have guided, supported, and continued the function, development, and impact of Minnesota SSB, shaping the organization into a crucial resource for customers who require their services every day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, June 22, 2023, as:

100 YEARS OF STATE SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 1st day of June.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE