



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

April 3, 2024

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the people of Maine, I write this letter in support of Vision Rehabilitation Therapist Appreciation Week, which is recognized during the week of April 14-20, 2024. The week commemorates the birth date of Anne Sullivan, who was one of the early pioneers of vision rehabilitation for her work with Helen Keller.

The work of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists dates back to the 1800s. In Maine, the first state-employed Adult Education Specialist began their work in the 1960s and traveled across the state to teach Maine residents, who were blind or partially sighted, adapted daily living skills. These skills included braille, recorded books, and adaptive techniques for daily activities such as cooking, home and financial management, personal care, and leisure activities.

Today, through state and nonprofit collaboration there exists a small group of specially trained, itinerant, vision rehabilitation therapists who provide the primary form of vision rehabilitation training and carry on this important work of delivering independent living skills to blind and partially sighted Maine residents. It is through the support and work of these professionals that Mainers with vision loss fill needed jobs throughout the state and maintain their independence from birth through retirement.

As Governor, I am proud to recognize the contributions of these highly specialized vision rehabilitation professionals and thank them for their work and dedication to helping Maine people with vision loss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Janet T. Mills', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Janet T. Mills
Governor



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