

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** the Vermont State Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI), Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI), Association of Educators and Rehabilitation Professionals (AER), and Association of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists (AVRT) recognize April 9-15, 2023, as Vision Rehabilitation Therapist (VRT) Appreciation Week; and

**WHEREAS,** Anne Sullivan’s birthday is April 14, and she was one of the first recognized home teachers – the original occupational title of today’s vision rehabilitation therapists (VRTs) – for Helen Keller; and

**WHEREAS,** VRTs provided the primary skills of independent living with a vision loss internationally since the 1800s and in Vermont since the 1974 with the first VABVI VRT who traveled across the state to teach blind and partially sighted Vermonters skills such as braille, how to use recorded books, and adaptive techniques for cooking, home and financial management, personal care, leisure activities and more; and

**WHEREAS,** through state and nonprofit collaboration there exists a small group of specially trained, travelling VRTs who provide the primary vision rehabilitation training and carry out this important work of delivering independent living skills to blind and partially sighted Vermonters. VRTs provide these services in conjunction with other vision rehab professionals such as orientation and mobility specialists, teachers of the visually impaired, and vocational rehabilitation counselors; and

**WHEREAS,** blindness and vision loss constitute a significant disability affecting all aspects of independent function, we celebrate this small group of professionals who are dedicated to improving the lives of Vermont residents, supporting and advocating for their independence and self-determination, while significantly reducing the cost to Vermont communities and health care systems.

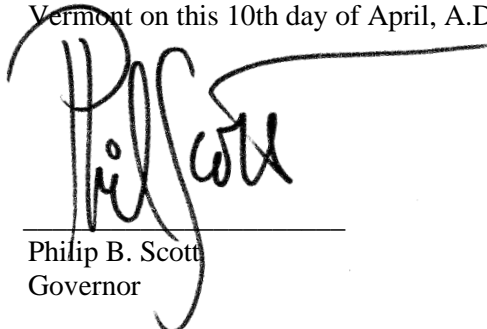
**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim April 9-15, 2023 as

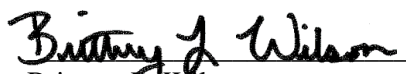
**VISION REHABILITATION THERAPIST APPRECIATION WEEK**

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 10th day of April, A.D. 2023.

  
Philip B. Scott  
Governor

  
Brittney J. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs