



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: March 3, 2011 marks the 80th anniversary of the Pratt-Smoot Act that established the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Talking Book Program; and

WHEREAS: Since 1933, the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library in the Minnesota Department of Education, in cooperation with the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, has provided statewide library services to print-impaired Minnesotans; and

WHEREAS: The Communication Center of State Services for the Blind in the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development has distributed and repaired NLS equipment since 1935, has provided Braille and audio transcription of textbooks, technical and leisure materials since 1953, and began the first radio reading services in the world in 1969; and

WHEREAS: More than 73,000 Minnesotans are estimated to be eligible for talking book services due to a visual or physical disability, and one in four Minnesotans is expected to be over the age of 65 by 2030 and likelihood of vision loss increases with age; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota's print impaired students will continue to require and receive essential Braille and audio textbooks for their education; and

WHEREAS: The need for the services of MBTBL and SSB/DEED will continue to grow and remain vital to the educational, vocational and recreational needs of all print-impaired Minnesotans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Thursday, March 3, 2011, as:

MINNESOTA TALKING BOOK AWARENESS DAY

in 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 15th day of February.

GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE