



Executive Department  
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor  
**Proclamation**

State Capitol  
Boise

**Blindness Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of visually impaired adults in the United States are over 65 years of age and the prevalence of blindness increases rapidly in later years, particularly after age 75; and

WHEREAS, nearly 20.5 million Americans age 40 and older are afflicted with cataracts, which is the leading cause of blindness in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans with age-related eye disease is expected to double within the next three decades, according to Eye Care America, which is the public service foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology; and

WHEREAS, approximately 37 million people are blind and 124 million people are severely visually impaired worldwide, and it is estimated that a child goes blind every minute; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization estimates that 75 percent of all blindness can be treated, cured or prevented by highly cost-effective means;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim October 2011 as

**Blindness Awareness Month**

in Idaho.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and eleven and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-fifth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-first.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ben Ysursa".

BEN YSURSA  
SECRETARY OF STATE