

STATE OF OREGON
PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- WHEREAS:** Albinism refers to a group of inherited genetic conditions that affect the body's ability to produce melanin, or pigment. The two primary types of albinism are oculocutaneous albinism (OCA), which affects the eyes, hair, and skin, and ocular albinism (OA), which primarily affects the eyes; and
- WHEREAS:** Albinism occurs in all racial and ethnic groups around the world. In the United States, approximately one in 18,000 to 20,000 people have some form of albinism. In certain regions globally, the prevalence may be as high as one in 3,000. Most children with albinism are born to parents who have typical hair and eye color for their ethnic backgrounds; and
- WHEREAS:** People with albinism have vision impairments that are not fully correctable with eyeglasses, and many live with low vision. These impairments result from abnormal development of the retina and atypical patterns of nerve connections between the eye and brain. The presence of these visual differences is a defining characteristic of albinism; and
- WHEREAS:** The degree of visual impairment varies across different types of albinism. Although some individuals may be classified as legally blind, with a corrected visual acuity of 20/200 or worse, most are able to use their vision effectively and engage in a wide range of everyday activities, such as reading, biking, fishing, and even driving; and
- WHEREAS:** Individuals with albinism typically have fair complexions and are at increased risk for sun-related damage to both the skin and eyes, including life-threatening skin cancers. It is, therefore, critical to take proactive steps—such as wearing broad-spectrum sunscreen, wide-brimmed hats, UV-protective sunglasses, and sun-protective clothing—to minimize exposure to harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays; and
- WHEREAS:** People with albinism often face social stigmatization, particularly within communities of color, where a person's race or parentage may be questioned. It is vital for families, schools, and communities to foster inclusion and encourage participation in group activities. Connection with others who have albinism, or who have experience with it, can offer essential support and empowerment.

NOW,

THEREFORE: I, Tina Kotek, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim June 13, 2025 to be

INTERNATIONAL ALBINISM AWARENESS DAY

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day May 22, 2025.



Tina Kotek

Tina Kotek, Governor

Tobias J. Read

Tobias Read, Secretary of State