



## OFFICE OF THE --- BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT

March 20, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for DeafBlind Leadership NOW in their effort to secure substantial representation of DeafBlind people at every level at the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC).

As Brooklyn Borough President, I advocate for the wellbeing of the borough's 2.6 million residents, including our DeafBlind neighbors. The Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled (BCID) is one of Brooklyn's longest standing advocacy organizations for people with disabilities, and I strongly stand behind their call for stronger DeafBlind representation at the HKNC.

HKNC operates a number of Helen Keller Service sites across the country, including one just blocks away from my office in downtown Brooklyn. As a neighbor, it would benefit the DeafBlind community of our borough and our city to have greater representation at the national level.

To achieve stronger representation, I strongly urge you to pursue the goals that have been laid out by BCID and DeafBlind Leadership NOW, which includes appointing a DeafBlind person as HKNC's executive director, establishing HKNC as its own entity, ensuring its board of directors comprise 70% of DeafBlind members. Accomplishing these goals will send a strong message that the concerns of the DeafBlind community are being taken seriously which will resonate well with the DeafBlind community in my borough and across New York City.

I appreciate the work your organization has done for DeafBlind people and look forward to your organization taking these steps to be more accountable to the community you serve.

Sincerely,

Antonio Reynoso  
Brooklyn Borough President