

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 437 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, FARNESE, FONTANA, BLAKE, MARTIN,
EICHELBERGER, GREENLEAF, SABATINA, BROWNE, COSTA,
TARTAGLIONE, BREWSTER, MENSCH, BAKER, HUGHES, SCHWANK,
KILLION, AUMENT AND RAFFERTY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating October 2018 as "Audiology Awareness Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention, hearing loss is the third most common chronic
5 physical condition in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, the National Institute on Deafness and Other
7 Communication Disorders and the Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention found that 24% of adults in the United States may
9 have noise-induced hearing loss in one or both ears and 16% of
10 adult residents of this Commonwealth report some level of
11 hearing loss on the Center for Disease Control's National Health
12 Interview; and

13 WHEREAS, Although the prevalence of hearing loss increases
14 with age, approximately 40% of individuals with hearing loss are
15 under 60 years of age and approximately 10% of children born in
16 Pennsylvania have some level of hearing loss present at birth;
17 and

1 WHEREAS, The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, the
2 former Eye and Ear Hospital, was the first medical center in the
3 country to dispense hearing aids; and

4 WHEREAS, Invented by Samuel Lybarger in Pittsburgh,
5 Pennsylvania, in 1947, the telecoil, which allows connection of
6 large room sound systems to hearing aids, is still used today;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Audiology as a profession, under the guidance of
9 Raymond Carhart, originated at the Deshon General Hospital in
10 Butler, Pennsylvania; and

11 WHEREAS, Audiologists, whose academic and clinical training
12 provides the foundation for patient management from birth
13 through adulthood, are dedicated health care professionals who
14 diagnose, treat and manage hearing loss and balance disorders;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Audiologists treat patients in many different
17 settings, including private practice, hospitals, schools,
18 Veterans Health Administration hospitals and otolaryngology
19 offices; and

20 WHEREAS, There is a need for greater awareness on the part of
21 the public regarding issues related to the hearing and balance
22 care provided by audiologists, including the diagnosis and
23 treatment options available to the public, the research needs of
24 audiologists and the public policy implications of changes in
25 the field of audiology; therefore be it

26 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate October 2018 as
27 "Audiology Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Senate applaud the actions of
29 audiologists, including clinicians, researchers and others who
30 strive to raise public awareness of hearing and balance care by

1 advancing the profession of audiology.