

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative Maria P. Donatucci

SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship of a Resolution Observing Noise Awareness Day and Noise Reduction Week

I have drafted a resolution that I will soon introduce recognizing April 25, 2012 as "Noise Awareness Day" and the week of April 23 through April 30, 2012 as "Noise Reduction Week" in Pennsylvania. I ask each of you to consider co-sponsoring and voting for the resolution.

The Center for Hearing and Communication (the center) founded International Noise Awareness Day to promote awareness of the dangers of long-term exposure to noise. It will mark the 17th Annual International Noise Awareness Day on April 25, 2012. The Center sponsors the observance to raise awareness that noise in all forms poses one of the worst threats to hearing for all people. Noise served as one of the leading causes of hearing loss in the 28 million people with impaired hearing in the United States, and health statistics suggest a trend that the incidence of hearing loss occurs at younger and younger ages. Noise-induced hearing loss, though preventable, is permanent.

Most importantly, many professions have increased risk of hearing damage, including firefighters, police officers, factory workers, farmers, construction workers, military personnel, heavy industry workers, musicians and entertainment industry professionals. The Center reports that residents can take various actions to protect their hearing, including paying attention to the noises around them, turning down the volume on devices whenever possible, avoiding or setting a time limit spent at noisy sports events, rock concerts and night clubs, wearing adequate hearing protection, such as foam ear plugs or ear muffs, when inside a noisy environment or when using loud equipment and making any and all efforts to reduce the creation of loud, constant noises.

The resolution will urge residents to recognize the 17th Annual International Noise Awareness Day on April 25, 2012 by observing one minute of silence from 2:15pm to 2:16pm. It also will recognize the same week as "Noise Reduction Week" and urge residents to make efforts to reduce noise and protect their hearing.

If you wish to co-sponsor this resolution please contact Marilyn Antes at (717) 783-8634 or at mantes@pahouse.net.