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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 322 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY MARKOSEK, BURNS, HENNESSEY, MULLINS, RYAN,  
BERNSTINE, READSHAW, BIZZARRO, PASHINSKI, KORTZ, IRVIN,  
DIGIROLAMO, HILL-EVANS, LONGIETTI, CALTAGIRONE, McNEILL,  
MILLARD, MACKENZIE, MEHAFFIE, MURT, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD,  
NEILSON, FREEMAN, OBERLANDER, ISAACSON, DRISCOLL, McCLINTON,  
D. MILLER, SCHWEYER, GILLEN, WEBSTER AND MALAGARI,  
MAY 8, 2019

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
MAY 8, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2019 as "Better Hearing and Speech  
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, "Better Hearing and Speech Month" was founded in  
4 1927 by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in an  
5 effort to raise awareness about communication disorders and the  
6 role of audiologists and speech-language pathologists in  
7 providing life-altering treatment; and

8 WHEREAS, Audiologists work with individuals of all ages with  
9 hearing loss, balance disorders, auditory processing disorders,  
10 tinnitus and other auditory disorders while speech-language  
11 pathologists help to manage speech, language, voice, swallowing  
12 and feeding disorders; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to working in clinical settings, these  
14 professionals also share their knowledge in areas of research,  
15 education, advocacy, policy development and health

1 administration; and

2 WHEREAS, To highlight the importance of early detection of  
3 developmental or acquired hearing and speech disorders, the  
4 American-Speech-Language-Hearing Association has themed 2019's  
5 celebration as "Communication Across the Lifespan"; and

6 WHEREAS, Communication disorders are among the most common  
7 childhood disabilities and are highly treatable in most cases,  
8 however, many parents may lack awareness of the early warning  
9 signs and do not recognize the benefits of early treatment; and

10 WHEREAS, Age-related hearing loss can lead to a wide variety  
11 of health problems and studies suggest a link between hearing  
12 loss and cognitive decline; and

13 WHEREAS, In adults 50 years of age or older, researchers have  
14 found that untreated hearing loss increases the risk of  
15 developing depression by 40% and dementia by 50%; and

16 WHEREAS, Early detection and treatment of hearing loss in  
17 older adults may potentially delay or prevent the onset of  
18 dementia or cognitive impairment and improve quality of life;  
19 therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
21 month of May 2019 as "Better Hearing and Speech Month" in  
22 Pennsylvania; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all  
24 residents of this Commonwealth to observe "Better Hearing and  
25 Speech Month" by evaluating their own communication health as  
26 well as recognizing and thanking audiologists and speech-  
27 language pathologists for their contributions.