
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 882 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY MARKOSEK, ISAACSON, ROTHMAN, HILL-EVANS, READSHAW, FREEMAN, LONGIETTI, KORTZ, KIM, BURNS, KINSEY, SCHLOSSBERG, MURT, RYAN, RAVENSTAHL, BIZZARRO, YOUNGBLOOD, DONATUCCI, SCHLEGEL CULVER, HENNESSEY, BROWN, SCHMITT, NEILSON, MILLARD, McCLINTON, HOHENSTEIN, STRUZZI, MALAGARI, DEASY, WARREN AND GAINNEY, MAY 21, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MAY 21, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of May 2020 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, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association has
9 themed 2020's celebration as "Communication at Work"; and

10 WHEREAS, The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association is
11 the national professional, scientific and credentialing
12 association for 211,000 members and affiliates, which includes
13 audiologists, speech-language pathologists and other
14 professionals in the industry; and

15 WHEREAS, Audiologists work with individuals of all ages with
16 hearing loss, balance disorders, auditory processing disorders,

1 tinnitus and other auditory disorders while speech-language
2 pathologists help to manage speech, language, voice, swallowing
3 and feeding disorders; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition to working in clinical settings, these
5 professionals also share their knowledge in areas of research,
6 education, advocacy, policy development and health
7 administration; and

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

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

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
23 month of May 2020 as "Better Hearing and Speech Month" in
24 Pennsylvania; and be it further

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