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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2019**

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**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**PROCLAIMING MAY AS "BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH" IN THE STATE  
OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, Ruggerio, Algieri, Lombardi, and Ciccone

Date Introduced: May 16, 2019

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, People seldom talk about hearing and speech problems, but hearing,  
2 language, voice, and speech disorders are serious, treatable conditions that affect an estimated 40  
3 million Americans; and

4           WHEREAS, Hearing, language, and speech disorders take many forms: babies can be  
5 born with these disorders, or an accidental injury or illness can cause them at any age. Whatever  
6 their cause, hearing, language, and speech disorders have serious consequences; and

7           WHEREAS, Hearing, language, and speech disorders can limit academic achievement,  
8 social adjustment, and career advancement; and

9           WHEREAS, Audiologists and speech-language pathologists are the professionals who  
10 treat all types of hearing, language, speech, and related disorders; and

11           WHEREAS, Hearing, language, speech, and related disorders make it difficult for people  
12 to express themselves or to understand the spoken or written word. Anyone of any age can have a  
13 communication disorder. Hearing, language, and speech disorders are everybody's problem; and

14           WHEREAS, Audiologists and speech-language pathologists work in schools, private  
15 practice, hospitals, clinics, and other health and education settings. They enable and empower  
16 individuals with communication disorders to lead independent, productive, and fulfilling lives;  
17 now, therefore be it

18           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
19 hereby proclaims May to be "Better Hearing and Speech Month" in the State of Rhode Island. We

1 urge the Department of Human Services to conduct hearing screenings and other special events to  
2 remind everyone that now is the best time to listen to sound advice about hearing. We urge the  
3 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to encourage teachers, hearing and speech  
4 specialists, principals, supervisors, and all the citizens of this state to participate in this month-  
5 long campaign acknowledging the great strides and invaluable services provided by these  
6 dedicated teachers and specialists, and to raise public awareness of hearing, language, and speech  
7 disorders; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
9 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Rhode Island Department of  
10 Human Services, the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education for the State of  
11 Rhode Island, and the President of the Rhode Island Speech and Language Association.

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