

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 35

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Designates May of each year as “Better Hearing and Speech Month.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/30/2020)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating May of each year as “Better
2 Hearing and Speech Month.”

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Hearing is a significant health issue in men and women,
5 and over time, as hearing loss progresses and communicating
6 becomes more difficult, individuals may be discouraged from
7 socialization, which leads to isolation; and

8 **WHEREAS**, An estimated 40 million Americans have some type of
9 communication disorder, costing the United States approximately
10 \$154 billion to \$186 billion annually due to lost work productivity,
11 special education, and medical treatment; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Hearing loss affects individuals across a broad range of
13 ages; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Eight percent of children under six-years-old across the
15 nation have speech and language disorders, one in five children
16 between the ages of 12 to 19 has hearing loss, and by the first
17 grade, approximately 5 percent of children have speech or language
18 disorders; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Early identification and treatment can enhance the
20 acquisition of functional communication skills; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The engagement of parents, educators, and community
22 leaders is of great importance in order to raise awareness and
23 support for those with communication disorders; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Individuals can help persons with hearing and speech
25 disabilities by joining a hearing health organization, donating a
26 hearing device, volunteering, or donating to support the mission of
27 hearing health; and

28 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that the Legislature designate the
29 month of May as “Better Hearing and Speech Month” in order to
30 provide an opportunity to raise awareness about communication
31 disorders and encourage the residents of the State of New Jersey to
32 join together in raising awareness and public knowledge of hearing
33 and speech disabilities; now, therefore,

34
35 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
36 *State of New Jersey:*

37
38 1. May of each year is designated as “Better Hearing and
39 Speech Month” in the State of New Jersey to help increase
40 awareness of the problems affecting persons with hearing and
41 speech disabilities.

42
43 2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation
44 calling upon public officials and the citizens of New Jersey to
45 observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.

46
47 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This joint resolution designates May of each year as “Better Hearing and Speech Month” in New Jersey to help increase awareness of the problems affecting persons with hearing and speech disabilities.

The joint resolution asks the Governor to annually issue a proclamation recognizing May as “Better Hearing and Speech Month” in New Jersey, and calling upon public officials and the citizens of New Jersey to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs.