

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 366

Supporting May 2004 as National Better Hearing and Speech Month and commending those States that have implemented routine hearing screenings for every newborn before the newborn leaves the hospital.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2004

Mr. COLEMAN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Supporting May 2004 as National Better Hearing and Speech Month and commending those States that have implemented routine hearing screenings for every newborn before the newborn leaves the hospital.

Whereas the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders reports that approximately 28,000,000 people in the United States experience hearing loss or have a hearing impairment;

Whereas 1 out of every 3 people in the United States over the age of 65 have hearing loss;

Whereas the overwhelming majority of people in the United States with hearing loss would benefit from the use of a hearing aid and fewer than 7,000,000 people in the United States use a hearing aid;

Whereas 30 percent of people in the United States suffering from hearing loss cite financial constraints as an impediment to hearing aid use;

Whereas hearing loss is among the most common congenital birth defects;

Whereas a delay in diagnosing the hearing loss of a newborn can affect the social, emotional, and academic development of the child;

Whereas the average age at which newborns with hearing loss are diagnosed is between the ages of 12 to 25 months; and

Whereas May 2004 is National Better Hearing and Speech Month, providing Federal, State, and local governments, members of the private and nonprofit sectors, hearing and speech professionals, and all people in the United States an opportunity to focus on preventing, mitigating, and treating hearing impairments: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of May 2004
3 as National Better Hearing and Speech Month;

4 (2) commends those States that have imple-
5 mented routine hearing screenings for every newborn
6 before the newborn leaves the hospital; and

7 (3) encourages all people in the United States
8 to have their hearing checked regularly.

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