

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 83

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Better Hearing and Speech
Month.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2008

Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY)) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Better Hearing
and Speech Month.

Whereas the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders reports that approximately 42,000,000 people in the United States suffer from a speech, voice, language, or hearing impairment;

Whereas approximately 32,500,000, or 15 percent, of adults in the United States report some degree of hearing loss;

Whereas 1 out of every 3 people in the United States over 60 years of age has a hearing problem;

Whereas 1 in 6, or 15 percent, of people in the baby boom generation, between the ages of 41 and 59, has a hearing problem;

Whereas 1 in 14, or 7 percent, of people in the United States between the ages of 29 and 40 already has hearing loss;

Whereas at least 1,400,000 children in the United States have hearing problems;

Whereas traumatic brain injury is an increasing problem among members of the Armed Forces returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas patients with traumatic brain injury may have problems with spoken language, called dysarthria, if the part of the brain that controls speech muscles is damaged, resulting in speech that is often slowed, slurred, and garbled;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces sent to battle zones are more than 50 times more likely to suffer noise-induced hearing loss than members of the Armed Forces who do not deploy;

Whereas, although more than 32,500,000 adults in the United States could benefit from the use of hearing aids, only 1 in 5 people who could benefit from a hearing aid actually wears one;

Whereas, of children between the ages of 6 and 19 years old, approximately 5,200,000, or 12.5 percent, are estimated to have noise-induced hearing loss in one or both ears, often as a result of increased environmental noise;

Whereas hearing loss is the most common congenital disorder in newborns;

Whereas a delay in diagnosing a hearing loss when a child is born can affect the child's social, emotional, and academic development;

Whereas, during the 2003 school year, more than 1,500,000 children had speech, language, or hearing impairments and received services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.);

Whereas children with language impairments are 4 to 5 times more likely than their peers to experience reading problems;

Whereas 10 percent of children entering the first grade have moderate to severe speech disorders, including stuttering;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 people in the United States of all ages stutter;

Whereas approximately 1,000,000 people in the United States have aphasia, a language disorder inhibiting spoken communication that results from damage caused by a stroke or other traumatic injury to the language centers of the brain; and

Whereas, since 1927, May has been celebrated as National Better Hearing and Speech Month in order to raise awareness regarding speech, voice, language, and hearing impairments and to provide an opportunity for Federal, State, and local governments, members of the private and nonprofit sectors, speech and hearing professionals, and the people of the United States to focus on preventing, mitigating, and curing such impairments: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
4 Better Hearing and Speech Month;

1 (2) urges increased coordination of community-
2 based, comprehensive care for members of the
3 Armed Forces, veterans, athletes, and accident vic-
4 tims who have experienced hearing and speech defi-
5 ciencies as a result of traumatic brain injury;

6 (3) supports the efforts of speech and hearing
7 professionals to improve the speech and hearing de-
8 velopment of children;

9 (4) encourages the people of the United States
10 to have their hearing checked regularly and to avoid
11 environmental noise that can lead to hearing loss;
12 and

13 (5) commends the 46 States that have imple-
14 mented routine hearing screenings for every newborn
15 before the newborn leaves the hospital.

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