

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 93

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Caputo**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/20/2020)

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating May of each year as “Better  
2   Hearing Month.”  
3  
4   **WHEREAS**, Hearing is critical to language, speech, and cognitive  
5   development and hearing loss can affect every area of a person’s  
6   life, including physical health, mental health, career success, social  
7   life, personal relationships, and overall quality of life; and  
8   **WHEREAS**, An estimated 48 million Americans have a significant  
9   hearing loss, as do an estimated 850,000 New Jersey residents; and  
10   **WHEREAS**, Hearing loss occurs in five out of every 1,000 newborns  
11   and almost 15 percent of children ages 6-19 have low-or high-  
12   frequency hearing loss in one or both ears; and  
13   **WHEREAS**, Approximately 14 percent of Americans ages 45-64 have  
14   some type of hearing loss and nearly half of Americans over age 65  
15   and have clinically significant hearing loss that threatens their  
16   health and well-being; and  
17   **WHEREAS**, Audiologists are healthcare professionals who provide  
18   patient-centered care in the prevention, identification, diagnosis,  
19   and evidence-based treatment of hearing, balance, and other  
20   auditory disorders for people of all ages; and  
21   **WHEREAS**, Audiologists through their professional and personalized  
22   treatment services help their patients lead independent, productive,  
23   and fulfilling lives; and  
24   **WHEREAS**, Hearing aids are a common treatment device used by  
25   audiologists and can offer dramatic improvement for most people  
26   with hearing loss, yet people with hearing loss wait an average of 7  
27   years before seeking help and 15 million people in the United States  
28   with hearing loss avoid seeking help; and  
29   **WHEREAS**, Since 1927, audiologists all across New Jersey, observe  
30   and celebrate “Better Hearing Month” May of each year to raise  
31   awareness and promote understanding of hearing health and  
32   encourage New Jersey residents to undergo hearing loss screenings,  
33   promote hearing loss prevention, and motivate people to seek  
34   treatment for hearing related issues; and  
35   **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that the Legislature designate the  
36   month of May as “Better Hearing Month” in order to provide an  
37   opportunity to raise awareness and public knowledge regarding  
38   hearing related issues and to recognize the achievements of the  
39   hundreds of audiologists working across New Jersey when it comes  
40   to improving the quality of life for people dealing with hearing loss;  
41   now, therefore,  
42  
43   **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
44   *State of New Jersey:*  
45  
46   1.   May of each year is designated as “Better Hearing Month” in  
47   the State of New Jersey to help increase awareness and public

1 knowledge of the problems affecting persons dealing with hearing  
2 loss.

3

4 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a  
5 proclamation calling upon public officials and citizens of New  
6 Jersey to observe “Better Hearing Month” with appropriate  
7 activities and programs.

8

9 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

10

11

12

#### STATEMENT

13

14 This joint resolution designates May of each year as “Better  
15 Hearing Month” in New Jersey to help increase awareness and  
16 public knowledge of the problems affecting persons dealing with  
17 hearing loss.

18 Hearing loss can affect every area of a person’s life, including  
19 physical health, mental health, career success, social life, personal  
20 relationships, and overall quality of life. An estimated 48 million  
21 Americans have a significant hearing loss, as do an estimated  
22 850,000 New Jersey residents.

23 Those affected by hearing loss seek treatment from audiologists  
24 who are healthcare professionals who provide patient-centered care  
25 in the prevention, identification, diagnosis, and evidence-based  
26 treatment of hearing, balance, and other auditory disorders for  
27 people of all ages. Audiologists commonly recommend their  
28 patients use hearing aids because hearing aids can provide dramatic  
29 improvement for most people with hearing loss, yet people with  
30 hearing loss wait an average of 7 years before seeking help and 15  
31 million people in the United States with hearing loss avoid seeking  
32 help.

33 Since 1927, audiologists all across New Jersey, observe and  
34 celebrate “Better Hearing Month” May of each year to raise  
35 awareness and promote understanding of hearing health and  
36 encourage New Jersey residents to undergo hearing loss screenings,  
37 promote hearing loss prevention, and motivate people to seek  
38 treatment for hearing related issues.