**A** **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE MAY 2019 AS “BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH” IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS TO BECOME INFORMED ABOUT THIS CRITICAL HEALTH ISSUE.

Whereas, Better Hearing and Speech Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness and help educate communities about hearing health and the irreversible effects of hearing loss; and

Whereas, hearing is the number‑one health issue in men over sixty‑five and the number‑four health issue for women. Over time, hearing loss causes communication to break down, which can cause individuals to become isolated and stop participating in activities. Screenings should be encouraged for individuals over the age of sixty as part of their annual wellness program; and

Whereas, hearing loss affects individuals across a wide range of ages, including high school students. Seventeen percent of high school students show the beginning signs of hearing loss; and

Whereas, Sertoma, Inc., and Hearing Charities of America fight to change the lives of people in communities nationwide through programs in hearing health, including the SAFEEars! program and CELEBRATE SOUND Don’t Walk in Silence® events; and

Whereas, individuals can help by joining a hearing‑health organization, donating a hearing device, volunteering, or donating to support the mission of hearing health. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

That the members of the South Carolina House of Representatives, by this resolution, recognize May 2019 as “Better Hearing and Speech Month” in South Carolina and encourage all South Carolinians to become informed about this critical health issue.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to Sertoma, Inc., and Hearing Charities of America.

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