

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1195

Expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Speech-Language-Hearing Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 2024

Mrs. CAMMACK (for herself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Speech-Language-Hearing Month.

Whereas the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association for decades championed Better Hearing and Speech Month, now known as National Speech-Language-Hearing Month;

Whereas communication disorders are among the most common conditions in children and adults, affecting tens of millions of people in the United States;

Whereas unaddressed difficulties with speech, language, hearing, and swallowing can negatively impact academic, employment, and social success, as well as quality of life;

Whereas audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing

audiologic treatment, including hearing aids, and speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive-communication disorders;

Whereas hearing loss can be present at birth, happen instantly, or, most commonly, develop over time from excessive noise exposure, aging, or a combination of factors;

Whereas the number of adults in the United States 20 years or older with hearing loss is expected to increase from 44,100,000 in 2020 to 73,500,000 million by 2060;

Whereas at least 46,000,000 people in the United States have a hearing or other communication disorder that affects how they engage with their environment;

Whereas 3,000,000 Americans who stutter may face mockery, bullying, and social stigma, with inadequate access to resources and treatment that can help them speak more confidently;

Whereas uneven coverage of and access to speech, language, and hearing health care contributes to significant disparities in health outcomes;

Whereas timely access to diagnosis and treatment for communication disorders by audiologists and speech-language pathologists and other qualified health care professionals can reverse or prevent many communication disorders, improve outcomes and reduce overall cost of care; and

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Speech-Language-Hearing Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness about hearing and speech problems, and to encourage people with those problems to seek appropriate care: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives sup-
2 ports—

3 (1) the goals and ideals of National Speech-
4 Language-Hearing Month; and

5 (2) efforts to improve access to hearing, bal-
6 ance, speech, language, swallowing, and cognitive
7 care.

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