

**BY:** Senator GALLIVAN

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim  
May 2022, as Better Hearing and Speech Month in the  
State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that are set aside to increase awareness of health issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2022, as Better Hearing and Speech Month in the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Each May, Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM) provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and the role of American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) members in providing life-altering treatment; and

**WHEREAS,** The theme for 2022 is "Connecting People"; the vision is to make effective communication a human right, accessible and achievable for all; and

**WHEREAS,** The American Academy of Audiology Foundation wants every citizen to celebrate the sounds of life; this vital foundation is also dedicated to advancing the profession of audiology and speech-language pathologists through increased public awareness; and

**WHEREAS,** ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for 223,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists; speech-language pathologists; speech, language, and hearing scientists; audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel and students; and

**WHEREAS,** Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids; speech-language pathologists (SLPs) identify, assess, and treat speech, language, and swallowing disorders; and

**WHEREAS,** To accomplish this mission, we must empower and support audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech, language and hearing scientists through advancing science, setting standards, fostering excellence in professional practice, and advocating for members and those they serve; and

**WHEREAS,** Audiologists and speech-language pathologists are the primary health care professionals who evaluate, diagnose, treat, and manage hearing loss, balance disorders and speech in adults and children; and

**WHEREAS,** Audiologists treat all ages and types of hearing loss, the

elderly, adults, teens, children, and infants; these specialists evaluate and diagnose hearing loss and vestibular (balance) disorders; prescribe, fit, and dispense hearing aids and other amplification and hearing assistance technologies; they are members of cochlear implant teams; perform ear- or hearing-related surgical monitoring; design and implement hearing conservation programs; design and implement newborn hearing screening programs; provide hearing rehabilitation training such as auditory training and listening skills improvement; assess and treat individuals, especially children, with central auditory processing disorders; and assess and treat individuals with tinnitus (noise in the ear, such as ringing); and

**WHEREAS,** Almost all types of hearing loss are treatable by an audiologist and speech-language pathologist; most hearing loss that is caused by nerve damage can be treated with hearing aids, assistive listening devices, and hearing rehabilitation; and

**WHEREAS,** It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of this issue and more must be done to improve hearing health for all New Yorkers and those affected by such hearing health issues; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 2022, as Better Hearing and Speech Month in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.