

BY: M. of A. Solages

memorializing Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
May 4-10, 2025, as Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness
Week in the State of New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks 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 4-10, 2025, as Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of National Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness Week; and

WHEREAS, Late onset hearing loss, defined as hearing loss occurring after birth and before Kindergarten, often goes undiagnosed and untreated in childhood due to lack of awareness and infrequency of early childhood hearing screenings; and

WHEREAS, Late onset hearing loss may develop in infants, toddlers, and young children who have already passed a newborn hearing screening test; a hearing screening at birth may fail to detect mild hearing loss or the onset of hearing loss may not occur until after infancy; and

WHEREAS, The factors causing late onset hearing loss are varied and include genetic causes, childhood syndromes, congenital illness, infections, exposure to ototoxic medications, head trauma, and exposure to excessive noise; however, the cause of late onset hearing loss is not always known; and

WHEREAS, Hearing plays a vital role in childhood development, and undetected late onset hearing loss could lead to developmental delays, speech and language difficulties, and social and emotional distress that can only be addressed once hearing loss is diagnosed; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated decrease in in-person education, medical treatment, and other social interactions have increased the likelihood that late onset hearing loss will go undetected for longer in many children; and

WHEREAS, It is important to quickly diagnose late onset hearing loss so that appropriate developmental management can be provided, hearing loss progression can be monitored, and amplification and communication options can be reviewed by a child's family, caretakers, and professionals who support the child; and

WHEREAS, Awareness of late onset hearing loss will help parents, families, guardians, teachers, child-care providers, and pediatricians to discuss and assess a child's developmental milestones, regularly

monitor hearing health and seek hearing evaluations, and learn about resources, treatment, and intervention services to address the needs and improve the lives of children with late onset hearing loss; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim May 4-10, 2025, as Late Onset Hearing Loss Awareness Week in the State of New York; and

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