

## Senate Resolution 536

By: Senators Summers of the 13th, Hodges of the 3rd, Echols of the 49th, Hickman of the 4th, Harbin of the 16th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 20, 2024, as Georgia Hearing Day at the state capitol; and for other  
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, hearing plays a critical role in communication and personal relationships,  
4 overall health outcomes, psychological well-being, and safety; and

5 WHEREAS, hearing loss has been tied to cognitive decline, dementia, falls, depression, and  
6 isolation. It can be a symptom of an underlying medical condition, including, but not limited  
7 to, infections, tumors, otosclerosis, and Meniere's disease and is typically irreversible; and

8 WHEREAS, a study conducted by the Better Hearing Institute concluded that untreated  
9 hearing loss has significant income ramifications, including negatively impacting household  
10 income by up to \$12,000 annually and costing \$122 billion in lost earning in the United  
11 States; and

12 WHEREAS, noise-induced hearing loss is a preventable and significant, through often  
13 unrecognized, health problem among United States adults, and is a growing problem with  
14 adolescents due to overamplification of personal listening devices; and

15 WHEREAS, according to the National Institutes of Deafness and Other Communications  
16 Disorders (NIDCD), more than 37 million American adults (15 percent) report some trouble  
17 hearing, and approximately 28.2 million American adults could benefit from using hearing  
18 aids; and

19 WHEREAS, according to the NIDCD, fewer than 30 percent of adults aged 70 and older and  
20 16 percent of adults aged 20 to 69 who experience hearing loss and who could benefit from  
21 hearing aids have ever used them; and

22 WHEREAS, the Georgia Society of Hearing Professionals, a chapter of the International  
23 Hearing Society, is composed of hearing health care professionals, including hearing aid  
24 specialists and audiologists, who are trained and specialize in the identification and  
25 assessment of hearing loss, rehabilitation through the use of hearing aids and related devices,  
26 and counseling; and

27 WHEREAS, Georgia Hearing Day, founded by the Georgia Society of Hearing  
28 Professionals, is observed on February 20 to raise awareness of how to prevent deafness and  
29 hearing loss and to promote ear and hearing care across the world.

30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
31 recognize February 20, 2024, as Georgia Hearing Day at the state capitol to encourage the  
32 citizens of Georgia to protect their hearing and seek the services of a licensed hearing health  
33 care professional, such as a hearing aid specialist, audiologist, or otolaryngologist, for regular  
34 hearing checks.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
36 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and press.