

Senators Birkholz, Sikkema, Cropsey, Garcia, Hardiman, Jelinek, Cassis, McManus, Hammerstrom, Van Woerkom, Stamas, George, Patterson, Toy, Gilbert, Sanborn, Bishop, Allen, Goschka, Barcia, Clark-Coleman, Basham, Thomas, Prusi, Scott, Cherry, Leland, Emerson, Olshove, Brater, Brown, Switalski, Whitmer and Jacobs offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 115.

A resolution recognizing May 2006 as Hearing Loss Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Currently 31 million Americans have hearing loss. As baby boomers reach retirement age starting in 2010, this number is expected to rapidly climb and nearly double by the year 2030; and

Whereas, It is estimated that 1.4 million people in the state of Michigan have hearing loss; and

Whereas, Among seniors, hearing loss is the third most treatable disabling condition, preceded by arthritis and hypertension; and

Whereas, While 95 percent of people with hearing loss could be successfully treated with hearing aids and listening devices, only 22 percent currently use them; and

Whereas, Every day approximately 3 in 1,000 infants are born profoundly deaf or with a partial hearing loss, making hearing loss the No. 1 birth defect in America; and

Whereas, Hearing loss can greatly hinder everyday, ordinary communication, and people with a hearing loss often feel a sense of isolation and decreased self-confidence; and

Whereas, It is important that people with hearing loss in the state of Michigan be aware that there are many deaf/hard-of-hearing organizations, audiologists and hearing professionals, assistive listening device manufacturers, and support groups that offer a large range of solutions to help people with hearing loss; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative body recognize May 2006 as Hearing Loss Awareness Month in the state of Michigan.