

**Introduced by Senator Leyva**

**(Coauthors: Senators Allen, Beall, Block, De León, Fuller, Galgiani, Hall, Hancock, Hernandez, Hertzberg, Hill, Hueso, Jackson, Lara, Leno, Liu, McGuire, Mendoza, Mitchell, Monning, Pan, Pavley, Roth, Wieckowski, and Wolk)**

April 9, 2015

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 40—Relative to Better Hearing and Speech Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 40, as introduced, Leyva. Better Hearing and Speech Month.

This measure would recognize May 2015 as Better Hearing and Speech Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Each May, Better Hearing and Speech Month  
2 provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication  
3 disorders; and

4 WHEREAS, An estimated 40 million Americans have some  
5 type of communication disorder, costing the United States  
6 approximately \$154 to \$186 billion annually due to lost work  
7 productivity, special education, and medical treatment; and

8 WHEREAS, Eight percent of children under six years of age  
9 across the nation have speech and language disorders and one in  
10 five children 12 to 19, inclusive, years of age has hearing loss. By  
11 the first grade, approximately 5 percent of children have speech  
12 or language disorders; and

13 WHEREAS, Thirty-six million American adults report some  
14 degree of hearing loss; and

1 WHEREAS, Early identification and treatment can enhance the  
2 acquisition of functional communication skills; and

3 WHEREAS, Engaging parents, educators, and community  
4 leaders is of great importance to raise awareness and support those  
5 with communication disorders; and

6 WHEREAS, In summary, the field of speech-language pathology  
7 and audiology focuses on the development of all parameters of  
8 communication, including swallowing across the age span, and  
9 addresses the disruption of this development through habilitation,  
10 rehabilitation, and access in various settings; now, therefore, be it

11 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
12 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes the month of  
13 May 2015 as Better Hearing and Speech Month, and that the  
14 residents of the State of California are encouraged to join together  
15 in raising awareness and heightening public knowledge of  
16 communication disorders; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
18 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.