

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing March 3, 2018, as Hearing Awareness Day.

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

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, according to the National Institutes of Deafness and Other
16 Communications Disorders (NIDCD), more than 37 million American adults report some
17 trouble hearing, and about 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
20 older with hearing loss, and 16 percent of adults aged 20 to 69 with hearing loss who
21 could benefit from hearing aids have ever used them; and

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

27 WHEREAS, Hearing Awareness Day, founded by the World Health Organization,

1 is observed annually on the third day of March to raise awareness of how to prevent
2 deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world; and

3 WHEREAS, the theme of World Hearing Day 2018 is "Hearing the Future" and
4 focuses on hearing loss prevention and promoting access for individuals with hearing loss
5 to necessary rehabilitation services and the communications tools they require;

6 NOW, THEREFORE,

7 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
8 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

9 ➔Section 1. The members of this honorable body declare March 3, 2018, as
10 World Hearing Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

11 ➔Section 2. The members of this honorable body recommend and encourage the
12 citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to protect their hearing and seek the services
13 of a licensed hearing healthcare professional such as a hearing aid specialist, audiologist,
14 or otolaryngologist for regular hearing checks.