

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SCR 1031

Introduced by
Senators Alston: Burch, Gabaldón, Gonzales, Marsh, Miranda, Sundareshan;
Representatives Gutierrez, Pawlik, Terech

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING MARCH 3, 2023 AS WORLD HEARING DAY IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

4 Whereas, hearing loss, which is typically irreversible, has been
5 tied to cognitive decline, dementia, falls, depression and isolation, and
6 hearing loss can be a symptom of an underlying medical condition such as
7 infection, tumor, otosclerosis and Meniere's disease; and

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

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

16 Whereas, according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other
17 Communication Disorders (NIDCD), more than 37 million American adults, or
18 15%, report some trouble hearing, and about 28.2 million adults in the
19 United States could benefit from using hearing aids; and

20 Whereas, according to the NIDCD, fewer than 30% of adults aged 70
21 and older with hearing loss and 16% of adults aged 20 to 69 with hearing
22 loss who could benefit from hearing aids have ever used them; and

23 Whereas, the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing
24 proudly serves the 1.1 million deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind
25 Arizonans through its work as the statewide information and referral
26 bureau, the hearing health care program, the telecommunication equipment
27 distribution program and Arizona Relay Services, its efforts in family
28 engagement services and training and its partnerships with both public and
29 private entities, ensuring the quality of life for every person who has a
30 varying hearing level; and

31 Whereas, World Hearing Day, founded by the World Health
32 Organization, is observed annually on March 3rd to raise awareness about
33 how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and to promote ear and hearing
34 care around the world; and

35 Whereas, World Hearing Day provides an opportunity to focus on
36 preventing hearing loss and promoting access to necessary rehabilitation
37 services and communications tools for individuals with hearing loss.

38 Therefore

39 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
40 Representatives concurring:

41 That the Members of the Legislature proclaim March 3, 2023 as World
42 Hearing Day in the State of Arizona and encourage the citizens of Arizona
43 to protect their hearing and seek the services of licensed hearing health
44 care professionals for regular hearing checks.