



SPONSOR: Rep. Longhurst on behalf of all Representatives &  
Sen. Henry on behalf of all Senators

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

RECOGNIZING SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS AND COMMENDING THEIR  
SKILLS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE CITIZENS OF  
DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, the citizens of Delaware place a high value on one of our greatest treasures, the ability to  
2 communicate effectively, and celebrate the speech-language pathologists and audiologists who help us guard that treasure;  
3 and

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

7 WHEREAS, the most prevalent disability category of children ages 3 through 5 and the second most prevalent  
8 disability category for students ages 6 through 21 served under IDEA part B were speech-language impairments, according  
9 to the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 2015; and

10 WHEREAS, Delaware recognizes and values the efforts of all speech-language pathologists and audiologists  
11 throughout Delaware who work to help these individuals with communication disorders across their lifespan, from birth to  
12 adult, to lead independent, productive, and fulfilling lives; and

13 WHEREAS, speech-language pathologists and audiologists employed by the public schools in this State help  
14 students who have difficulty understanding and producing spoken language, producing speech sounds, speaking fluently,  
15 and speaking with a strong and clear voice due to developmental delays or disorders, cognitive impairments, learning  
16 disabilities, hearing disabilities, emotional disabilities, physical disabilities, or other acquired impairments so that they can  
17 communicate with others, use language to learn to read and write, solve problems, make decisions, and effectively  
18 participate in the educational process with a sense of pride and confidence; and

19 WHEREAS, through the services of dedicated speech-language pathologists and audiologists, citizens of this State  
20 have improved their communication abilities, and the efforts of the speech-language pathologists and audiologists should be  
21 recognized; and

22 WHEREAS, in the fall of 2016 the College of Health Sciences at the University of Delaware welcomed the first  
23 class of students for the master's program in Speech-Language Pathology. Until now, there was no master's level program  
24 in Delaware, forcing people to study outside the State and contributing to a shortage of services for Delawareans; and

25 WHEREAS, Delaware is proud and honored to have certified speech-language pathologists and audiologists who  
26 currently possess the highest provider qualifications for assessment and treatment of communication disorders, which  
27 include the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; and

28 WHEREAS, Delaware is extremely fortunate to have specialists of this impressive caliber serving its citizens.

29 NOW, THEREFORE:

30 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 149th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the  
31 Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature expresses its deepest gratitude for the caring and professional service to the  
32 citizens of Delaware and designates May 11, 2017, as a day to formally recognize and commend the skills and contributions  
33 of speech-language pathologists and audiologists in improving the quality of life for Delaware citizens with communication  
34 disorders.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution recognizes and commends speech-language pathologists and audiologists throughout this State for their work with citizens of this State to lead independent, productive, and fulfilling lives.