



SPONSOR: Rep. Longhurst & Rep. Michael Smith

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 13

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 then, 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, 76% of graduates from the class of 2021 gained employment in Delaware and 97% became employed  
26 in the region; and

27 WHEREAS, graduates of the master's program in Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Delaware have  
28 a 100% pass rate on the Praxis exam on the first attempt and have had a 99% employment rate over the past three years;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, this year's graduating class has provided more than 6,000 clinical service hours off campus as part of  
31 their training; and

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

35 WHEREAS, May is National Better Speech and Hearing Month, a time to recognize the effect of hearing loss and  
36 speech disorders on individual wellness; and

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

38 NOW, THEREFORE:

39 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the  
40 members express their deepest gratitude to speech-language pathologists and audiologists for the caring and professional  
41 service to the citizens of Delaware.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives recognize and commend the  
43 skills and contributions of speech-language pathologists and audiologists in improving the quality of life for Delaware  
44 citizens with communication disorders.

#### SYNOPSIS

This House 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.