



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH**

**2018**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, more than 1.2 million, or one in eight, North Carolinians of all ages have hearing loss or speech and language impairments; and

**WHEREAS**, effective communication impacts learning, socialization, and emotional development, and is important for all people striving to reach their individual potential; and

**WHEREAS**, hearing loss is a frequently occurring congenital condition, with a national prevalence rate of 1.6 per 1,000 babies screened; and

**WHEREAS**, all of North Carolina's 90 neonatal facilities offer newborn hearing screening services prior to discharge, and more than 99 percent of infants are screened for the presence of permanent hearing loss; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 200 infants are diagnosed each year in North Carolina with hearing loss, and about the same number will acquire hearing loss by the time they enter school; and

**WHEREAS**, the ability to clearly communicate with others is critical to securing employment, establishing and maintaining relationships, and living a fulfilling and enjoyable life; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of North Carolina commends our dedicated and diverse hearing health care providers for their outstanding work to raise awareness of communication barriers, and their efforts to ensure that people with hearing loss, speech, and language impairments have access to the services they need;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2018, as "**BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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**Roy Cooper**  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-sixth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.