State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

HEARING LOSS AWARENESS MONTH

2023

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, more than 1.2 million North Carolinians have a hearing loss, which impacts 30 percent of those ages 65 – 74, and 50 percent of those ages 75 and older; with proper hearing health care, communication access, and the abundance of resources in North Carolina, these individuals can have lives that are as meaningful and productive as anyone; and

WHEREAS, after arthritis and heart disease, hearing loss is the third most common treatable condition for older adults, affecting 532,000 North Carolinians ages 65 and up; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to nearly 703,000 veterans, of which combat experience is associated with a 63 percent increased risk for hearing loss compared to nondeployed counterparts; and

WHEREAS, untreated hearing loss is associated with poorer overall health, including cardiovascular risk, cognitive changes, diabetes, balance disorders, and depression, and can lead socially-engaged adults to become isolated and withdrawn as their hearing loss progresses; and

WHEREAS, hearing loss is a critical public health care issue, and efforts should be made to screen adults over the age of 50 for hearing loss as part of routine medical care; and

WHEREAS, the use of hearing aids, cochlear implants, assistive listening devices, transparent masks, effective communication, and self-advocacy tips as well as a wide variety of other resources can improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration’s Rule to Establish Over-the-Counter (OTC) Hearing Aids went into effect on October 17, 2022; OTC hearing aids are now available for those 18 years and older with perceived mild to moderate hearing loss; and

WHEREAS, screening infants and children for hearing loss provides early access to language development, curricula, and resources, ensuring they can live full and productive lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May, 2023, as “HEARING LOSS AWARENESS MONTH” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.

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-eighth day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.

Roy Cooper
Governor