



**STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

According to the Texas Department of State Health Services, as many as three of every 1,000 children born have hearing loss. This is vitally important as communication is essential to functioning in our daily lives. Through communication we learn, express our opinions and emotions and foster relationships. However, as statistics show, many Texans face challenges due to hearing, speech and language disorders, ranging from stuttering to deafness.

Though communication disorders can greatly impact an individual's life, Texans with speech and language disorders lead full and productive lives with help from extensively trained speech-language pathologists and audiologists who provide specialized therapy. Besides appropriate therapy, another key element to ensuring better hearing and speech as well as cognitive skills is early detection of communication disorders during childhood. Fortunately, the Lone Star State has implemented early intervention programs to screen newborns and refer parents to helpful services.

Each May, organizations across Texas campaign to raise awareness of these disorders and the resources available to patients that can greatly increase their quality of life.

At this time, I encourage all Texans to support those affected by hearing, speech and language disorders and to thank pathologists and audiologists for their contributions to our communities. Together, we can overcome the challenges we face and build toward a brighter future for our state.


Therefore, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim May 2018 to be

Better Speech and Hearing Month



in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,
I hereby affix my signature this the
8th day of May, 2018.


Governor of Texas