



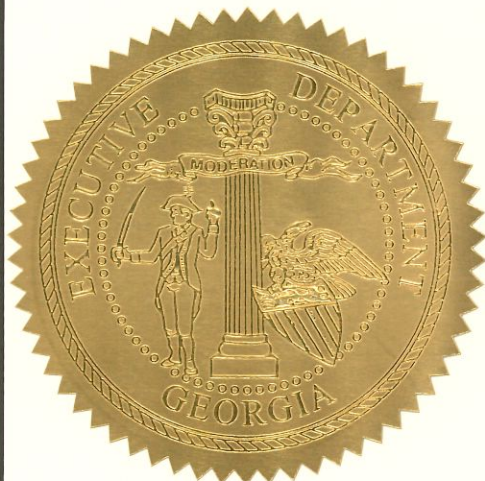
BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING MONTH

- WHEREAS:** Hearing loss is one of the most common birth defects, and those born with or experiencing hearing loss benefit from access to early intervention through auditory verbal therapy, and hearing aids or cochlear implants; and
- WHEREAS:** Hearing loss affects children of all backgrounds, and there is a growing need for early intervention with bilingual Auditory-Verbal Therapists to facilitate optimal carryover in any language; and
- WHEREAS:** Auditory-verbal therapy can be provided through in-person services as well as through teletherapy, allowing greater access to these services for families across our state; and
- WHEREAS:** Children who are deaf or hard of hearing often benefit from services such as listening, language, and fundamental literacy skills which help to expand their educational and life opportunities; and
- WHEREAS:** Organizations such as the Auditory Verbal Center (AVC) have been helping deaf and hard of hearing children for many years through auditory-verbal therapy with trained and specialized Auditory-Verbal Therapists who help to develop the listening pathways in a child's brain, laying the foundation for a lifetime of listening and speaking without the need for sign language or lip reading; and
- WHEREAS:** During National Speech-Language-Hearing Month, the State of Georgia acknowledges the importance of early intervention as well as the benefits of auditory verbal therapy for all deaf and hard of hearing children to maximize their future educational, professional, and personal opportunities; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 2024, as SPEECH-LANGUAGE-HEARING MONTH in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 15th day of April in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.




GOVERNOR

ATTEST


CHIEF OF STAFF