



State of Wisconsin  
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4122/1  
CMH:amn

## 2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 100

February 9, 2016 – Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, OLSEN, GUDEx, C. LARSON, VINEHOUT and HARRIS DODD, cosponsored by Representatives BERCEAU, BROSTOFF, JORGENSEN, MILROY, SINICKI, SPREITZER and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** proclaiming March 2016 as Deaf History Month in Wisconsin.

2             Whereas, an estimated 4 million people between the ages of 18 and 64, or 2.1%  
3     of U.S. citizens, of whom 70,000 are Wisconsinites, suffer from a hearing disability;  
4     and

5             Whereas, these individuals face enormous additional challenges in their  
6     day-to-day lives, from scarce education and employment opportunities to ongoing  
7     discrimination; and

8             Whereas, the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf has identified the need to  
9     improve emergency preparedness for deaf people and ways to address this need,  
10    including educating first responders and developing emergency signaling devices  
11    such as fire alarms; and

12            Whereas, the deaf face a lack of accessible mental health or substance abuse  
13    services in the state of Wisconsin, such as few to no ASL-fluent counselors/therapists  
14    and low funding for interpreting services for support groups; and

1           Whereas, the National Association of the Deaf recognizes March 13 to April 15  
2 as Deaf History Month, to memorialize the March 13, 1988, Deaf President Now  
3 protest at Gallaudet University, the April 8, 1864, signing of the Gallaudet  
4 University charter by President Abraham Lincoln, and the April 15, 1817,  
5 establishment of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, CT; and

6           Whereas, while great legislative steps have been taken to help the deaf  
7 community, from the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to the Wisconsin  
8 legislature recognizing ASL as a foreign language in 1991, more can be done; and

9           Whereas, the Wisconsin legislature finds a compelling public interest in  
10 promoting awareness of the deaf community and its issues, in supporting advocacy  
11 for this silent minority, and in celebrating its unique and proud history in the state  
12 of Wisconsin; now, therefore, be it

13           ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the legislature  
14 hereby proclaims March 2016 as Deaf History Month in Wisconsin.

15                                 (END)