2019 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

April 11, 2019 - Introduced by Senators TESTIN, HANSEN, L. TAYLOR, LARSON, COWLES, OLSHEN and WANGGAARD, cosponsored by Representatives BROSTOFF, SKOWRONSKI, EMERSON, ZAMARRIPA, ANDERSON, ALLEN, VINING, CROWLEY, FIELDS, HEBL, MILROY, DITTRICH, BOWEN, KULP, C. TAYLOR, VRUWINK, MYERS, THIESFELDT, SPREITZER, DUCHOW, ROHRKASTE, STUBBS, SARGENT, SINICKI, TUSLER, HESSELBEIN, MURPHY, NEUBAUER, PETRYK and SPIROS. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 Relating to: recognizing April 2019 as Deaf History Month in Wisconsin.

    Whereas, National Deaf History Month coincides with key historical dates that
    celebrate the Deaf community’s history; and

    Whereas, in April, 1817 in Hartford, Connecticut, the American School for the
    Deaf was founded as the first permanent educational institution in the country for
    Deaf students; and

    Whereas, on April 18, 1852, the Wisconsin Legislature approved Chapter 481,
    Laws of 1852, permitting Ebenezer Chesebro to found the Wisconsin School for the
    Deaf in Delevan; and

    Whereas, on April 8, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Gallaudet
    University charter to establish the first university for the Deaf, located in our
    nation’s capital; and

    Whereas, the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf was founded in Delavan in
    1876; and
Whereas, Wisconsin native Philip S. Engelhardt became the first president of
the Wisconsin Association for the Deaf and founded the first Society of the Deaf in
Milwaukee; and

Whereas, in 1886, Deaf player William Ellsworth Hoy began his professional
baseball career in Oshkosh, Wisconsin before going on to set Major League records
for multiple teams; and

Whereas, Wisconsin legislators authorized school boards to grant foreign
language credit for courses in American Sign Language (ASL) under 1989 Wisconsin
Act 280; and

Whereas, to help families support communication need and development of
their children, Wisconsin hospitals have been required to screen the hearing of each
newborn since 2004; and

Whereas, in 2010 Wisconsin native Michelle Koplitz won the title of Miss Deaf
America, a pageant which first took place in 1972; and

Whereas, in April 2016, the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf and the
Wisconsin Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf organized the community’s first
legislative action day to bring the needs of the community to their legislators; and

Whereas, hearing loss affects about half a million Wisconsin residents; now,
therefore be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the members of the
Wisconsin Legislature hereby recognize April 2019 as Deaf History Month in
Wisconsin.

(END)