

Senate Resolution 809

By: Senators Strickland of the 17th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Martin of the 9th, Brass of the 28th and Unterman of the 45th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing March 3, 2020, as World Hearing Day at the state capitol; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, it is estimated that approximately 466 million people worldwide have disabling
4 hearing loss, 34 million of whom are children; and

5 WHEREAS, unaddressed hearing loss poses an annual global cost of \$750 billion.
6 Interventions to prevent, identify, and address hearing loss are cost effective and can bring
7 great benefit to individuals; and

8 WHEREAS, people with hearing loss benefit from early identification; use of hearing aids,
9 cochlear implants, and other assistive devices; captioning and sign language; and other forms
10 of educational and social support; and

11 WHEREAS, hearing loss is among the most prevalent birth defects in America; and

12 WHEREAS, hearing loss may result from genetic causes, complications at birth, certain
13 infectious diseases, chronic ear infections, the use of particular drugs, exposure to excessive
14 noise, and aging; and

15 WHEREAS, today, more than 97 percent of infants are screened for hearing loss, which is
16 an improvement from just 40 percent in 2000—a major public health success; and

17 WHEREAS, at all life stages, communication and good hearing health connect us to each
18 other, our communities, and the world; and

19 WHEREAS, children identified early and given access to sound through assistive technology
20 can develop language skills on par with their hearing peers; and

21 WHEREAS, A.G. Bell, Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, is striving to raise
22 awareness about deafness and hearing loss worldwide; and

23 WHEREAS, A.G. Bell, along with many other organizations in Georgia, are dedicated to
24 providing our children and their families with all the necessary resources to ensure that
25 children who are deaf or hard of hearing can reach their full potential.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
27 recognize March 3, 2020, as World Hearing Day at the state capitol.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
29 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the
30 press.