WHEREAS, founded in 1960, the Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ISHA) is a non-profit organization representing more than 4,000 licensed professionals with advanced degrees in speech-language pathology and audiology; and,

WHEREAS, specializing in normal and disordered human communication, speech-language pathologists and audiologists are professionals who serve people with communicative disorders; and,

WHEREAS, speech-language pathologists work with people of all ages, from infants to the elderly, providing treatment to improve language, voice, stuttering, articulation, memory, literacy, and swallowing; and,

WHEREAS, audiologists specialize in the prevention, identification, and evaluation of hearing and balance disorders, and the habilitation and rehabilitation of individuals with hearing impairment; and,

WHEREAS, ISHA has three main goals: to make the public aware of services available to persons with speech, language, and hearing disorders; to advocate for quality hearing services throughout the state; and to support the scientific study of human communication and its disorders; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 46 million Americans are affected by communicative disorders, including 28 million individuals with hearing loss and 16 million individuals with a speech and/or language disorder; and,

WHEREAS, 45 percent of individuals reported to have a chronic speech and/or language disorder are under the age of 18; and,

WHEREAS, speech-language pathologists and audiologists serve these individuals in a wide variety of settings, including hospitals, skilled nursing/extended care facilities, rehabilitation centers, private practice, home health agencies, parent-infant centers, preschools, public and private schools, college and university speech-language and hearing clinics, government facilities, and research laboratories;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as Better Hearing and Speech Month in Illinois to raise awareness of the contributions of speech-language pathologists and audiologists and the help that is available to those individuals with a speech, language, or hearing problem.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield, this __________ day of __________, in the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and __________, and of the State of Illinois, two hundred and __________

Dee Reck
Secretary of State

[Signature]
GOVERNOR