

NJDOE Better Hearing and Speech Month Proclamation May 2021 Meeting 4/7/21 –Kathleen Palatucci, President-Elect

Good morning Members of the Department of Education. I would like to thank Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan and President Kathy Goldenberg for this opportunity to come before you. I am honored to accept this resolution for “May as Better Hearing and Speech Month” on behalf of NJSHA, the New Jersey Speech-Language and Hearing Association.

NJSHA is a professional organization of speech-language pathologists and audiologists who provide services in schools, medical settings and private practices throughout our state. As providers and speech-language specialists, we know that communication is key to the way a student learns. We work alongside many other school based personnel - teachers, special educators, reading specialists, deaf education specialists and others - to provide the individualized treatment plans students need to succeed, not only in school but to succeed in social situations. Social communication skills are needed for students to become more independent in daily life.

I am sure everyone here would agree that providing education and special education services during this pandemic year has been extremely challenging. Engaging and holding the attention of students with special needs has fostered tremendous creativity and resilience as services are provided virtually and/or via a hybrid model every day.

New ways to do everything has been required this past year. But our speech-language specialists are passionate and care deeply about the students they serve. They have persisted. This resolution recognizes the role communication specialists have in helping students develop these important skills. We appreciate our partnership with you. And NJSHA thanks you very much for your recognition.