

State of Misconsin 2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

## **2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 41**

April 20, 2021 – Introduced by Representatives BROSTOFF, S. RODRIGUEZ, THIESFELDT, ANDERSON, ANDRACA, BOWEN, CABRERA, CONLEY, DRAKE, EMERSON, HEBL, HESSELBEIN, HINTZ, MILROY, MOSES, MURPHY, NEUBAUER, ORTIZ-VELEZ, SHANKLAND, SHELTON, SINICKI, SKOWRONSKI, SPREITZER, SUBECK and OHNSTAD, cosponsored by Senators Ballweg, ERPENBACH, LARSON, RINGHAND, ROYS and WIRCH. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1	Relating to: recognizing April 2021 as Deaf History Month in Wisconsin.
2	Whereas, National Deaf History Month coincides with key historical dates that
3	celebrate the Deaf community's history; and
4	Whereas, in April 1817, in Hartford, Connecticut, the American School for the
5	Deaf was founded as the first permanent educational institution in the country for
6	Deaf students; and
7	Whereas, on April 18, 1852, the Wisconsin Legislature approved Chapter 481,
8	Laws of 1852, permitting Ebenezer Chesebro to found the Wisconsin School for the
9	Deaf in Delevan; and
10	Whereas, on April 8, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Gallaudet
11	University charter to establish the first university for the Deaf, located in our
12	nation's capital; and
13	Whereas, the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf was founded in Delavan in
14	1876; and

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1	Whereas, Wisconsin native Philip S. Engelhardt became the first president of
2	the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf and founded the first Society of the Deaf in
3	Milwaukee; and
4	Whereas, in 1886, Deaf player William Ellsworth Hoy began his professional
5	baseball career in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, before going on to set Major League records
6	for multiple teams; and
7	Whereas, Wisconsin legislators authorized school boards to grant foreign
8	language credit for courses in American Sign Language (ASL) under 1989 Wisconsin
9	Act 280; and
10	Whereas, to help families support communication needs and development of
11	their children, Wisconsin hospitals have been required to screen the hearing of each
12	newborn since 2004; and
13	Whereas, in 2010, Wisconsin native Michelle Koplitz won the title of Miss Deaf
14	America, a pageant that first took place in 1972; and
15	Whereas, in April 2016, the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf and the
16	Wisconsin Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf organized the community's first
17	legislative action day to bring the needs of the community to their legislators; and
18	Whereas, hearing loss affects about half a million Wisconsin residents; now,
19	therefore, be it
20	Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the
21	Wisconsin Legislature hereby recognize April 2021 as Deaf History Month in
22	Wisconsin.

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(END)