

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 9, 2006

The Congressional Hearing Health Caucus

## *Hearing Screening in U.S. Capitol*

Dear Colleague:

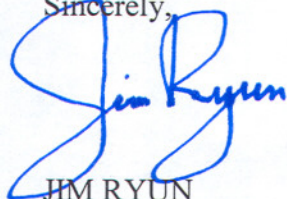
In recognition of *National Better Hearing and Speech Month*, the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus urges you to take a few minutes to have your hearing checked by a qualified professional. Hearing screenings will take place in **Room HC-5 of the U.S. Capitol from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2006**, for Members of Congress and Capitol Hill staff.

This event, hosted by the *Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alliance*, the *Hearing Industries Association*, the *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association*, the *American Academy of Audiology*, the *American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery*, the *American Tinnitus Association*, and the *International Hearing Society*, will include an Issues Forum and the opportunity to meet representatives of the deaf and hard of hearing community. Refreshments will be served from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Beginning at 4:00 p.m., the Issues Forum will examine key hearing health initiatives**, including the newborn infant hearing screening through the reauthorization of the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act (H.R. 5250), and passage of the Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act (H.R. 414/S. 1060) that will help make hearing aid devices more accessible.

Over 31 million Americans experience hearing loss – a number that is expected to grow to 78 million in the coming years. Many are unaware that their hearing is no longer normal. We encourage you and your staff to attend this event. For additional information, please contact Ryan Kaldahl with Rep. Ryun at x5-6601 or Andrea Uckele with Rep. Walsh at x5-3701.

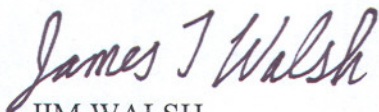
Sincerely,



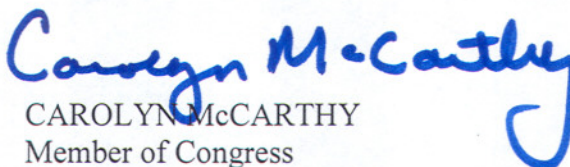
JIM RYUN  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair



LOIS CAPPS  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair



JIM WALSH  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair



CAROLYN MCCARTHY  
Member of Congress  
Co-Chair