

handicapped citizens. Regrettably, an often overlooked segment of the handicapped are those persons with hearing impairments.

Today, over 2,000,000 people in the United States depend on a hearing aid device that is equipped with an inductive telephone pick-up ("the telephone switch") which detects magnetic energy sounds allowing them to use the telephone normally. Unfortunately, not all telephone equipment, utilized by telephone companies doing business in the State of Maryland, is compatible with these hearing devices.

In different Maryland locales, telephone companies have installed receivers that do not pick up the vital magnetic energy signal. As a result, persons suffering from hearing impairments are denied equal employment opportunities to the extent that they are prevented from using the telephone - a must on most jobs. In addition, these individuals are denied freedom of mobility since they cannot move about for fear of losing telephone contact as well as being denied emergency protection. There is no way to anticipate when the critical need for telephone use will arise; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That all State agencies and departments are directed to refrain from installing any telephone equipment, which cannot accommodate hearing aid devices equipped with inductive telephone pick-up switches, in their respective facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all county and municipal governments and their respective agencies and departments are requested to refrain from installing any telephone equipment, which cannot accommodate hearing aid devices equipped with inductive telephone pick-up switches in their individual offices and facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Acting Governor, Honorable Blair Lee III; the President of the Senate, Honorable Steny H. Hoyer; the Speaker of the House of Delegates, Honorable John Hanson Briscoe; the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, Dr. Neil Solomon, 201 West Preston Street, Baltimore 21201; the Secretary of General Services, Honorable J. Max Millstone, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore 21201; the Director of the Organization for Use of the Telephone, Inc., David Saks, P. O. Box 175, Owings Mills 21117; Mr. Joseph Murane of the Maryland Association of Counties, 169 Conduit Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; and Mr. John Robinson of the Maryland Municipal League, 76 Maryland Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 for distribution to their member organizations.

Approved May 16, 1978.

---