

Date

Official's Name

Address

City, State Zip

Dear Mayor (or Chair of the City Council or Governor) (insert name):

This year, we celebrate Tinnitus Awareness Week nationwide from May 18-24. Created by the American Tinnitus Association (ATA), this national awareness campaign focuses on raising the country's understanding of tinnitus (ringing in the ears) and the necessity for increasing tinnitus research funding. In addition, we are educating people about the potential of developing permanent hearing damage and tinnitus from exposure to loud noise(s) and we are encouraging them to protect their hearing.

To help inform everyone, volunteers throughout the country are asking mayors, county commissioners and governors to join us in this declaration. An apt reflection of ATA's mission, our theme this year is:

Moving the World Toward a Cure!

Approximately 50 million people in the United States experience tinnitus. Many refer to it by the telltale noises they hear in their ears and/or head: ringing, hissing, roaring, buzzing, pulsing, whooshing and even crickets or music. The impact of tinnitus can range from annoyance to debilitation – difficulty sleeping, anxiety and depression, the inability to concentrate and maintain a job, disruption of family life and painful withdrawal from common, daily activities. Although there is currently no cure for tinnitus, effective treatments help many people successfully live with the condition. And researchers are working hard on finding cures.

Tinnitus can occur at any time in life and affects men and women equally. Our environments and lives have ever-increasing noise levels. Even children are vulnerable if they don't know and follow the simple rules, noted in the proclamation, for protecting their hearing.

Please help draw attention to tinnitus, a treatable and someday curable condition. Help us tell the citizens of our town (or county or state) about the importance of increased funding for tinnitus research and the need to preserve their hearing health. Please formally proclaim May 18-24, 2008 as Tinnitus Awareness Week in (insert name of your city, county or state).

Most respectfully,

(Your name)

(Your organization's name, if you represent a group)

Enc.: Draft Proclamation for National Tinnitus Awareness Week 2008

