

2013-J4900

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION recognizing May 14, 2014, as National Apraxia Awareness Day

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official days that are set aside to increase awareness of serious issues that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize May 14, 2014, as National Apraxia Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) is a neurological speech disorder that affects a child's ability to clearly and correctly produce syllables and words with the most obvious symptom presenting as significantly limited and/or unclear speech; and

WHEREAS, Currently, all of the causes of CAS are unknown with most instances of CAS occurring with no cause to be found; however, some children have CAS as part of a larger neurological diagnosis or as part of a genetic or mitochondrial disorder; and

WHEREAS, Childhood Apraxia of Speech is a very complicated speech disorder that is difficult to diagnose with little data available about how many children have CAS, although the number of children diagnosed with CAS appears to be increasing; and

WHEREAS, Although there is no cure, with appropriate, intensive intervention including speech therapy focused on providing the child with a great number of opportunities to practice planning, programming and then producing accurate movements for speech, significant progress can be made; and

WHEREAS, Parents or caregivers need to be highly involved in their child's speech therapy goals, serving as important extenders of speech goals, enabling the child to gain more practice opportunities than they

could otherwise and can help model appropriate interactions for others and how to best support the child's communication attempts; and

WHEREAS, The patience and support of caring extended family, friends and teachers through learning is the best way to support the child's speech attempts, not pressuring the child to speak, providing time and loving patience when the child wants to speak; affirming the child's efforts, worth, and ability is crucial to the success of the child; and

WHEREAS, Children with CAS are often keenly aware of how difficult speech is for them and need the appropriate support from those around them to encourage their efforts and progress; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that there be greater public awareness of Apraxia, and more must be done to increase activity at the State, local and national levels to support those afflicted as well as their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to recognize May 14, 2014, as National Apraxia Awareness Day.