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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MAY 14, 2021, AS "APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF
RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Raptakis, and Rogers

Date Introduced: May 17, 2021

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, Annually, May 14th marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which
2 awareness is raised throughout Rhode Island about childhood apraxia of speech, an extremely
3 challenging speech disorder that affects 1 in 1,000 children; and

4 WHEREAS, Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) causes children to have significant
5 difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children; and

6 WHEREAS, The act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, however,
7 those with apraxia require early, appropriate, and intensive speech therapy, often for many years
8 in order to learn to speak; and

9 WHEREAS, Without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia will
10 have diminished communication skills, and are also placed at high risk for secondary impacts in
11 reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills; and

12 WHEREAS, These primary and secondary impacts can diminish future independence and
13 employment opportunities and challenge the individual's ability to become productive,
14 contributing citizens if not resolved or improved; and

15 WHEREAS, Public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in Rhode Island is
16 essential for families of children with this neurological disorder and the professionals who
17 support them in order to achieve the needed services for those learning to use their own voice;
18 now, therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby proclaims May 14,

1 2021, to be "Apraxia Awareness Day" and encourages the citizens of Rhode Island to work
2 within their communities to increase awareness and understanding of childhood apraxia of
3 speech. We furthermore extend our highest respect to these children, as well as their families, for
4 their effort, determination, and resilience in the face of such obstacles, and to Apraxia Kids, the
5 leading nonprofit that strengthens the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia of
6 speech; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
8 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Apraxia Kids.

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