

House Resolution 1407

By: Representative Clark of the 98th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Recognizing May 14, 2020, as Apraxia Awareness Day; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, May 14, 2020, marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which
3 awareness will be raised throughout Georgia about childhood apraxia of speech, an
4 extremely challenging speech disorder in children; and
- 5 WHEREAS, childhood apraxia of speech causes children to have significant difficulty
6 learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children; and
- 7 WHEREAS, the act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, but those with
8 apraxia endure an incredible and lengthy struggle; and
- 9 WHEREAS, without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia are
10 placed at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other
11 school-related skills; and
- 12 WHEREAS, such primary and secondary impacts diminish future independence and
13 employment opportunities if not resolved or improved; and
- 14 WHEREAS, most children with apraxia of speech will learn to communicate with their very
15 own voices only if they receive early intervention with appropriate, intensive, and frequent
16 speech therapy; and
- 17 WHEREAS, it is imperative there be greater public awareness about childhood apraxia of
18 speech in Georgia among community members, physicians, education professionals, policy
19 makers, and elected officials; and
- 20 WHEREAS, funders such as insurance providers, schools, and policy makers are encouraged
21 to recognize the critical need to provide adequate speech therapy and other services so that

22 the impact of this disorder is minimized and so that thousands of affected children can grow
23 into productive, contributing adult citizens; and

24 WHEREAS, the highest respect should go to these children, as well as their families, for their
25 effort, determination, and resilience in the face of such obstacles.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body recognize May 14, 2020, as Apraxia Awareness Day and
28 encourage citizens of Georgia to work within their communities to increase awareness and
29 understanding of childhood apraxia of speech.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
31 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
32 public and the press.