

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senator Reilly**

Requested: October 26, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Apraxia Awareness Day**

3 FOR the purpose of commemorating Apraxia Awareness Day on May 14 by encouraging  
4 citizens of the State to work within their communities to increase awareness and  
5 understanding of childhood apraxia of speech.

6 WHEREAS, Childhood apraxia of speech is an extremely challenging speech  
7 disorder, affecting one in one thousand children; and

8 WHEREAS, May 14 marks Apraxia Awareness Day, during which awareness will be  
9 raised throughout Maryland about childhood apraxia of speech; and

10 WHEREAS, Childhood apraxia of speech causes children to have significant  
11 difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children; and

12 WHEREAS, While learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with  
13 apraxia require early, appropriate, and intensive speech therapy for many years to learn  
14 to speak; and

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

18 WHEREAS, Negative primary and secondary educational impacts diminish future  
19 independence and employment while also challenging the ability to become productive  
20 citizens if unresolved; and

21 WHEREAS, Public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in Maryland is  
22 essential for families of children with this neurological disorder and the professionals who  
23 support them to receive the needed services for those learning to use their own voice; and



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1           WHEREAS, Our highest respect goes to the children experiencing this disorder and  
2 their families, for their effort, determination, and resilience in the face of such obstacles;  
3 now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That to  
5 commemorate Apraxia Awareness Day on May 14, citizens of the State are encouraged to  
6 work within their communities to increase awareness and understanding of childhood  
7 apraxia of speech; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
9 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the  
10 Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; and the  
11 Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates.