



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY

- WHEREAS:** The State of Georgia seeks to raise awareness about childhood apraxia of speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder that affects 1-in-1000 children; and
- WHEREAS:** Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) causes children to have significant difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children; and
- WHEREAS:** The act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with apraxia require early, appropriate, and intensive speech therapy, often for many years to learn to speak; and
- WHEREAS:** Without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia can have diminished communication skills and are at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills; and
- WHEREAS:** Such primary and secondary impacts can diminish future independence and employment opportunities and make it difficult to become productive, contributing citizens; and
- WHEREAS:** Public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in Georgia is essential for families of children with this neurological disorder and the professionals who support them to achieve the needed services for those learning to use their own voice; and
- WHEREAS:** Our highest respect goes to these children, as well as their families, for their effort, determination, and resilience in the face of such obstacles; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim May 14, 2022 as APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Two.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Mantua Kipertovich*

CHIEF OF STAFF