



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, May 14 marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which awareness will be raised throughout Alabama about Childhood Apraxia of Speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder in children; and

WHEREAS, Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) causes children to have significant difficulty in 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 endure an incredible and lengthy struggle; and

WHEREAS, without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia are placed at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills; and

WHEREAS, that such primary and secondary impacts diminish future independence and employment opportunities if not resolved or improved; and

WHEREAS, most children with apraxia of speech will learn to communicate with their own voices only if they receive early intervention, appropriate, intensive, and frequent speech therapy; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative there be greater public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in Alabama among community members, physicians, education professionals, policy makers, and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, funders such as insurance providers, schools, and policy makers are encouraged to recognize the critical need to provide adequate speech therapy and other services so that the impact of this disorder is minimized and so that thousands of affected children can grow into productive, contributing adult citizens; 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, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 14, 2020, as

Apraxia Awareness Day

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 18th day of February 2020.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor