

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
MOTION NO. _____

TITLE: Proclaiming May 14, 2024 Apraxia Awareness Day in Chautauqua County

AT THE REQUEST OF: Legislator Proctor:

WHEREAS, May 14, 2024, marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which awareness will be raised throughout Chautauqua County about childhood apraxia of speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder that affects 1-in-1,000 children.

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.

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.

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

WHEREAS, such primary and secondary impacts diminish future independence and employment opportunities and challenge the ability to become productive, contributing citizens if not resolved or improved.

WHEREAS, public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in Chautauqua County 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.

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.

MOVED, that the Chautauqua County Legislature hereby proclaims May 14, 2024, is “Apraxia Awareness Day” in Chautauqua County and all citizens are encouraged to work within their communities to increase awareness and understanding of childhood apraxia of speech.