**A** **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

TO AFFIRM THE DEDICATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE FUTURE SUCCESS OF ALL OF SOUTH CAROLINA’S CHILDREN AND TO DECLARE MAY 14, 2014, “CHILDHOOD APRAXIA OF SPEECH DAY” IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

Whereas, it is the desire of the South Carolina General Assembly to raise awareness of childhood apraxia of speech and to recognize the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA), whose mission is to strengthen the support system in the lives of children with apraxia; and

Whereas, childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) causes children to have extreme difficulty planning and producing the precise, highly refined, and specific series of movements of the mouth, face, tongue, and soft palate that are necessary to produce proper speech; and

Whereas, for most children, the process of learning to speak comes effortlessly, but for those with apraxia, it entails a prolonged and arduous struggle; and

Whereas, although not life threatening, CAS is life altering for families who must cope with the emotional, physical, and financial challenges of having a child diagnosed with CAS; and

Whereas, with early intervention and appropriate therapy, most children with CAS will learn to communicate with their very own voices, but without such assistance, they are at high risk for secondary impacts in literacy and other school‑related skills; and

Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly encourages schools and insurance providers to recognize the critical need to provide adequate speech therapy and other services so that the impact of this disorder can be minimized and affected children can grow into productive, contributing, adult citizens. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

That the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, affirms its dedication to the future success of all of South Carolina’s children and declares May 14, 2014, as “Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day” in the State of South Carolina.

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