

## House Resolution 710

By: Representatives LaHood of the 175<sup>th</sup>, Corbett of the 174<sup>th</sup>, LaRiccia of the 169<sup>th</sup>, and Burchett of the 176<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 14, 2019, as the seventh annual Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day at the  
2 state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, childhood apraxia of speech is a persistent and challenging speech and  
4 communication disorder in children, which causes them to have extreme difficulty learning  
5 to speak, and is among the most severe speech and communication problems in children; and

6 WHEREAS, the act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, but those with  
7 apraxia endure an incredible and lengthy struggle; and

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, it is imperative that there be greater public awareness of childhood apraxia of  
17 speech in Georgia among community members, education professionals, policy makers, and  
18 elected officials; and

19 WHEREAS, insurance providers, schools, and policy makers are encouraged to recognize  
20 the critical need to provide adequate speech therapy and other services so that the impact of  
21 this disorder is minimized and so that thousands of affected children can grow into  
22 productive, contributing adult citizens; and

23 WHEREAS, our highest respect goes to these children, as well as their families, for their  
24 effort, determination, and resilience in the face of such obstacles.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
26 the members of this body recognize May 14, 2019, as Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day at  
27 the state capitol and encourage citizens of Georgia to work within their communities to  
28 increase awareness and understanding of childhood apraxia of speech.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
30 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
31 public and the press.