

Office of the Mayor

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, May 14<sup>th</sup> marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day during which awareness will be raised throughout New Jersey about Childhood Apraxia of Speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder in 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 endure an incredible and lengthy struggle.

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.

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

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

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

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.

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 BE IT RESOLVED, I Mayor Michael Putrino do hereby proclaim the May 14, 2021 as

## APPRAXIA AWARENESS DAY

in the Borough of New Milford and encourage all residents to work within their communities to increase awareness and understanding of Childhood Apraxia of Speech.

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Mayor Michael Putrino

