

## House Resolution 604

By: Representatives Carter of the 175<sup>th</sup>, Nimmer of the 178<sup>th</sup>, Holcomb of the 81<sup>st</sup>, Dempsey of the 13<sup>th</sup>, and Maxwell of the 17<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing May 14, 2017, as the fifth annual Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day at the state  
2 capitol, during which awareness of childhood apraxia of speech will be raised throughout  
3 Georgia, a persistent and extremely challenging speech and communication disorder in  
4 children; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, childhood apraxia of speech causes children to have extreme difficulty learning  
6 to speak and is among the most severe speech and communication problems in children; and

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

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, insurance providers, schools, and policy makers are encouraged to recognize  
21 the critical need to provide adequate speech therapy and other services so that the impact of

22 this disorder is minimized and so that thousands of affected children can grow into  
23 productive, contributing adult citizens; and

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

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
27 the members of this body recognize May 14, 2017, as Childhood Apraxia of Speech Day at  
28 the state capitol and encourage citizens of Georgia to work within their communities to  
29 increase awareness and understanding of childhood apraxia of speech.

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