

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12

By Terry

A RESOLUTION to recognize the importance of childhood apraxia of speech awareness.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize serious health issues about which awareness needs to be raised; and

WHEREAS, childhood apraxia of speech (CAS), a motor speech disorder, is one such condition that affects an increasing number of Tennessee's children each year; and

WHEREAS, children with CAS have difficulty enunciating sounds, syllables, and words due to trouble with the coordination of muscle movements used for speech; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of CAS are often apparent at the time that children begin to speak; and

WHEREAS, although there is no known cure for CAS, intensive intervention delivered promptly upon diagnosis enables children with CAS to make significant progress in speech development; and

WHEREAS, early intervention and intensive treatment provided by appropriate healthcare practitioners, such as speech-language pathologists, can help a child improve the planning, sequencing, and coordinating of muscle movements required in speech; and

WHEREAS, family can also play an important role in their child's speech development by practicing language skills at home; and

WHEREAS, it is important that people be made aware of CAS and the significant improvement that early and intensive intervention can make; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize the importance of early and intensive intervention to

address the needs of children with apraxia of speech and the importance of supporting improved awareness of this health disorder.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.