

# Proclamation

## by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** May 14, 2026, marks Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) Day, during which awareness will be raised throughout West Virginia about childhood apraxia of speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder that affects 1-in-1,000 children; and
- Whereas,** CAS causes children to have significant difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children; and
- Whereas,** while the act of learning to speak comes effortlessly to most children, those with apraxia require early, appropriate, and intensive speech therapy, often for many years, to learn to speak; and
- Whereas,** without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia have diminished communication skills and are at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills; and
- Whereas,** primary and secondary impacts can diminish children's future independence and employment opportunities and challenge their ability to become productive, contributing citizens if not resolved or improved; and
- Whereas,** public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech in West Virginia is essential for families of children with this neurological disorder and the professionals who assist them to obtain support for those learning to use their own voice; and
- 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 that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 14, 2026*, as:

### *Apraxia Awareness Day*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Fourteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third year of the State.



*Patrick Morrisey*  
Governor

*By the Governor:*



*Kris Warner*  
Secretary of State