

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## Proclamation

*WHEREAS, Apraxia Awareness Day is observed annually on May 14 as a way to raise awareness and educate the public about this little-known, often-misunderstood, and challenging motor speech disorder; and*

*WHEREAS, children diagnosed with Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS) generally have a good understanding of language and know what they want to say; however, they have difficulty producing the precise, specific series of movements of the tongue, lips, jaw, and palate necessary for intelligible speech; apraxia is among the most severe speech deficits faced by children, and those with the disorder often endure a lengthy struggle; and*

*WHEREAS, about 1 to 2 children out of every 1,000 nationally develop apraxia, and approximately 305,000 American children have been diagnosed with it; because of the disorder's relative rarity, it is often misdiagnosed, which is a significant problem; without appropriate, intensive speech therapy, children with apraxia might never develop understandable speech, and they're at high risk for secondary problems related to reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills; and*

*WHEREAS, Apraxia Kids, founded in Allegheny County in 2000, has provided critical support to more than 100,000 families and professionals; it educates the public, facilitates community engagement and outreach, and invests in advocacy and research; its efforts to promote early intervention and advances in treatment are critical to minimizing apraxia's impact and helping thousands of children grow into happy, productive adults; and*

*WHEREAS, we are extremely fortunate to have Apraxia Kids in our region and thankful for its commitment to raising awareness about this terrible disorder as well as the vital services it offers to children learning a skill that comes effortlessly to their peers; by working together as a community, we can ensure that every child with apraxia overcomes their obstacles and finds their voice.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim May 14, 2020 as "Apraxia Awareness Day" in Allegheny County and encourage our residents to learn more about apraxia and what they can do to support children with the disorder and their families.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

RICH FITZGERALD