



City of Elkins, West Virginia

Apraxia Awareness Day Proclamation

Whereas, May 14, 2026, marks Apraxia Awareness Day during which awareness will be raised throughout the City of Elkins about childhood apraxia of speech, an extremely challenging speech disorder that affects 1-in-1,000 children with 1/3 having a genetic causal basis.

Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) causes children to have significant difficulty learning to speak and is among the most severe speech deficits in children;

As 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.

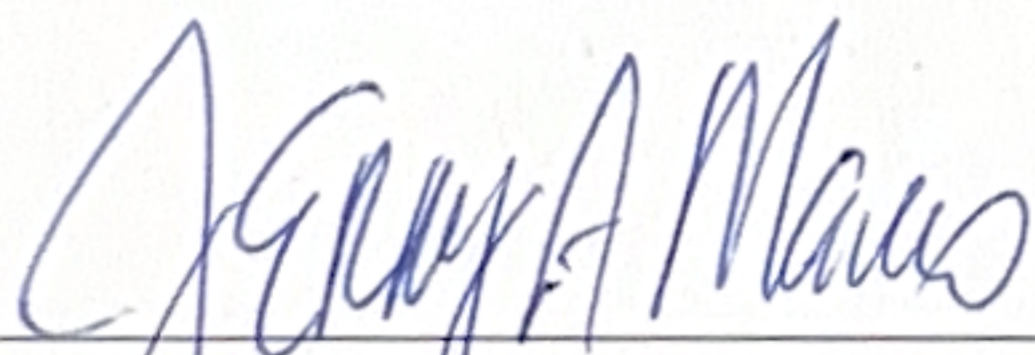
Without appropriate speech therapy intervention, children with apraxia will have diminished communication skills, but are also placed at high risk for secondary impacts in reading, writing, spelling, and other school-related skills;

That such primary and secondary impacts diminish future independence and employment opportunities and challenge the ability to become productive, contributing citizens if not resolved or improved.

Public awareness about childhood apraxia of speech is essential for families of children with this neurological disorder and the professionals who support them to achieve the needed services for those learning to use their own voice.

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, I, Jerry Marco, Mayor of Elkins proclaim that May 14, 2026, is "Apraxia Awareness Day" and citizens of the City of Elkins and surrounding areas are encouraged to work within their communities to increase awareness and understanding of childhood apraxia of speech.



Jerry A. Marco
Mayor of Elkins



Date



Apraxia Kids is the leading nonprofit that strengthens the support systems in the lives of children with apraxia of speech. Please visit www.apraxia-kids.org for more information.