



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Elizabeth Molnar

H.B. 98

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Brown, Rogers, Stinziano, Lepore-Hagan, Blessing

BILL SUMMARY

- Designates May 14 as "Childhood Apraxia of Speech Awareness Day."

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Childhood Apraxia of Speech Awareness Day

The bill designates the fourteenth day of May as "Childhood Apraxia of Speech Awareness Day" to increase public awareness of the disorder and to support the goals of Better Hearing and Speech Month.¹ Current law designates the month of May as "Better Hearing and Speech Month."

Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) is a disorder in which a child has difficulty making accurate movements when speaking.² CAS does not occur because of muscle weakness or paralysis; instead, the child's brain struggles to coordinate the muscle movements necessary for speech.³ Often, there is a wide gap between a child's ability to understand language and the child's expressive skills. The most common characteristics of CAS include inconsistent errors with consonants and vowels when repeating

¹ R.C. 5.2281.

² Mayo Clinic, Diseases and Conditions, *Childhood apraxia of speech* (last visited March 13, 2015), available at <<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/childhood-apraxia-of-speech/basics/definition/con-20031147>>.

³ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, *Childhood Apraxia of Speech* (last visited March 13, 2015), available at <<http://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/ChildhoodApraxia/>>. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders uses the term verbal dyspraxia to describe this disorder (5th Edition, American Psychiatric Association, 2013).

syllables and words, difficulty moving from sound to sound or syllable to syllable, and inappropriate stress on syllables or words.⁴

At present, speech therapy is the primary treatment for CAS. Without intervention, in addition to continued expressive language difficulties, children with CAS may experience difficulty in reading, writing, and spelling.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-03-15

H0098-I-131.docx/ks

⁴ The Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America, *Family Start Guide: How is CAS Diagnosed?* (last visited March 13, 2015), available at <<http://www.apraxia-kids.org/guides/family-start-guide/how-is-cas-diagnosed/>>.

