

**Committees:**

Government Accountability & Oversight Committee –  
Chairman  
Financial Institution, Housing, & Urban Development  
Health and Aging



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**Tim W. Brown, State Representative**  
**Ohio's 3<sup>rd</sup> House District**

Chair Gonzales, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and my fellow colleagues of the Health and Aging Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present sponsor testimony on HB 98 – creating a Childhood Apraxia of Speech Awareness Day in Ohio. This bill will designate the 14<sup>th</sup> of May as Childhood Apraxia of Speech Awareness Day.

Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS), is a particularly difficult, persistent, and severe neurological speech disorder in youngsters that affects many families throughout our state. The disorder causes children to have extreme difficulty planning and producing the precise, highly refined and specific series of movements of the tongue, lips, jaw, and palate that are necessary in producing clear, intelligible speech. It is among the most severe of speech and communication problems in children. There is no known definitive cause in children, it can range from being part of a larger neurological diagnosis or as part of a genetic or mitochondrial disorder. Apraxia diagnosis in adults is usually the result of brain trauma, or stroke. Because Childhood Apraxia of Speech is a very complicated speech disorder, the best professional to diagnose is an experienced speech-language pathologist. Childhood Apraxia treatment can be intense and last for many years, before the ability of normal speech can be restored. It is important to stress that with proper evaluation and therapy a child's speech can improve.

With this bill I hope to use Childhood Apraxia Awareness Day to raise awareness during Better Hearing and Speech Month and respectfully request your consideration of the bill.