

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R26-0487.01 Frank Stoner x5498

SJR26-004

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Kolker and Simpson,

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Clifford,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26-004

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH**
102 **SEPTEMBER 26, 2026, AS "FRONTOTEMPORAL DEGENERATION**
103 **AWARENESS WEEK".**

1 WHEREAS, The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration
2 reports that Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD) is a terminal and
3 incurable neurodegenerative disease affecting the frontal and temporal
4 lobes of the brain; and

5 WHEREAS, It is the custom of the General Assembly to recognize
6 official time periods to increase awareness of serious health conditions
7 that affect the lives of Colorado citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, In conjunction with the observance of World FTD
9 Awareness Week, Colorado will join many others in recognizing

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

1 September 20 through September 26, 2026, as "Frontotemporal
2 Degeneration Awareness Week"; and

3 WHEREAS, FTD causes impairments to speech, personality,
4 behavior, and motor skills--which constitute a major public health
5 concern; and

6 WHEREAS, It takes an average of 3.6 years from the start of
7 symptoms to get an accurate diagnosis of FTD, with a remaining life
8 expectancy of 7 to 13 years, on average, after the start of symptoms; and

9 WHEREAS, FTD strikes people between the ages of 21 and 80,
10 with the largest percentage of those affected being between 45 and 64,
11 rendering people in their prime of life unable to work or function
12 normally; and

13 WHEREAS, FTD imposes additional average annual costs of care,
14 impacting those living with the disease; this financial cost is at least 120
15 percent the economic burden of Alzheimer's disease; and

16 WHEREAS, FTD is named in The National Plan to Address
17 Alzheimer's Disease as a related dementia and included as a priority in the
18 goals and strategies of the Plan to achieve the vision of a nation without
19 Alzheimer's disease and all other forms of dementia; and

20 WHEREAS, While FTD is recognized as a related dementia within
21 the "Talk About Dementia" awareness campaign spearheaded by the
22 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, this resolution
23 serves to establish "FTD Awareness Week" by supporting the goals laid
24 out in similar statewide initiatives to comprehensively address and
25 acknowledge all forms of dementia; and

26 WHEREAS, With FTD comprising an estimated 5 to 15 percent
27 of all forms of dementia cases, in aggregate, FTD is the most common
28 form of dementia for people under 60 years old; and

29 WHEREAS, Approximately 40 percent of people with FTD have
30 a family history of FTD or a closely related condition such as ALS
31 (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), and roughly half of those people are
32 found to have an inherited form manifested in gene mutations in the
33 Progranulin, C9orf72, Tau/MAPT, and other rarer genes; and

1 WHEREAS, FTD is often misdiagnosed as either a psychiatric
2 disorder or a catch-all neurodegenerative disease due to the vast range
3 and diverse combinations of cognitive and behavioral symptoms, and
4 most cases of FTD are diagnosed in people aged 45 to 65--an age group
5 much younger than all other common forms of dementia that typically
6 affect those over 65; and

7 WHEREAS, FTD often negatively changes a person's ability to
8 express emotions and show affection and empathy for loved ones; and

9 WHEREAS, In the behavioral variant of FTD, a person's sense of
10 social etiquette and appropriate behavior can be completely lost; it can
11 also result in a distortion of personality so profound that loved ones may
12 feel they are living with a complete stranger; and

13 WHEREAS, In the language variants of FTD, in addition to
14 Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA), variants include Semantic Variant
15 PPA (svPPA, also called Semantic Dementia), Nonfluent/Agrammatic
16 Variant PPA (nfvPPA), Logopenic Variant PPA (lvPPA), Behavioral
17 Variant FTD (bvFTD), and FTD with Motor Neuron Disease
18 (FTD-ALS/MND)--noting the 3 PPA subtypes are distinct, but all are
19 considered part of the "language-led" (aphasic) spectrum of FTD; and

20 WHEREAS, Additionally in the language variants of FTD, a
21 person may experience difficulty speaking and understanding grammar,
22 forget the meaning of words, and demonstrate a drastically diminished
23 vocabulary--becoming increasingly hesitant to speak and potentially
24 losing the ability to speak altogether; and

25 WHEREAS, In the movement variants of FTD, a person may
26 experience muscle weakness, falling, loss of balance, difficulty making
27 speech, difficulty swallowing, or choking; and

28 WHEREAS, A formal global epidemiology study of FTD is yet to
29 take place. However, the current estimation is believed to be over 60,000
30 people affected in the United States, which is likely a paltry fraction of
31 the total figure, if accounting for the gap of cases that comprise the initial
32 4 years of misdiagnosis and underdiagnosis in aggregate; and

33 WHEREAS, The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration is
34 the leading national organization exclusively focused on the spectrum of
35 FTD disorders with a mission to improve the quality of life of people

1 affected by FTD and drive research to a cure; and

2 WHEREAS, Raising greater awareness of this serious disease is
3 imperative, and further action is needed to increase engagement and
4 advocacy at the local, state, and national levels; now, therefore,

5 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth General Assembly*
6 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

7 That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly,
8 proclaim the week of September 20 through September 26, 2026, as
9 "Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week" in Colorado.

10 *Be It Further Resolved*, That a copy of this Joint Resolution be
11 sent to the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration.