

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48

BY REPRESENTATIVE TARVER

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Designates September 21-28, 2025, as Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week in Louisiana

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To designate September 21-28, 2025, as Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week in
3 Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting to recognize the week of September 21-28, 2025, as Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD) Awareness Week in the state in conjunction with the observance of World FTD Awareness Week; and

7 WHEREAS, FTD is identified in The National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease
8 as a related dementia and is included as a priority in the goals and strategies of the plan to
9 achieve the vision of a nation free of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; and

10 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD)
11 State Plan outlines a well-coordinated public health approach to address ADRD and support
12 those with Alzheimer's disease, FTD, and all other related dementias and their caregivers;
13 and

WHEREAS, the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD) reports that Frontotemporal Degeneration is a terminal and incurable neurodegenerative disease affecting the frontal and temporal lobes, causing impairments to speech, personality, behavior, and motor skills which constitutes a major public health concern; and

18 WHEREAS, it takes an average of 3.6 years from the start of symptoms to get an
19 accurate diagnosis of FTD; the average life expectancy is seven to thirteen years after
20 symptoms begin; and

1 WHEREAS, FTD is the most common form of dementia for people under sixty years
2 of age; it strikes people as young as twenty-one and as old as eighty with the largest
3 percentage of those affected being in their forties to sixties, rendering people in the prime
4 of life unable to work or function normally; and

5 WHEREAS, FTD is often misdiagnosed as a psychiatric problem or other
6 neurodegenerative disease because of the wide range of cognitive and behavioral symptoms
7 and their early onset; and

8 WHEREAS, the average annual costs associated with care and living with FTD are
9 approximately double those of Alzheimer's disease; and

10 WHEREAS, FTD often affects a person's ability to express emotions and show
11 affection and empathy for loved ones; in the behavioral variant of FTD, a person's sense of
12 social graces and appropriate behavior can be lost and personality may be significantly
13 changed; and

14 WHEREAS, in the language variants of FTD, such as primary progressive aphasia,
15 a person may have trouble producing speech and understanding grammar, lose the meaning
16 of words, or become hesitant in speech, and may eventually become mute; and

17 WHEREAS, in the movement variants of FTD, a person may experience muscle
18 weakness, falling, loss of balance, difficulty speaking, difficulty swallowing, or choking; and

19 WHEREAS, while there has never been a global epidemiology study of FTD, it is
20 estimated that more than 60,000 people in the United States are affected; and

21 WHEREAS, AFTD is the leading national organization exclusively focused on the
22 spectrum of FTD disorders with a mission to improve the quality of life of people affected
23 by FTD and to drive research to a cure; and

24 WHEREAS, it is imperative that there be greater awareness of this serious disease,
25 and more must be done to increase activity at the local, state, and national levels.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
27 designate September 21-28, 2025 as Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week in
28 Louisiana and does hereby encourage all Louisianians to support initiatives that bring greater
29 awareness of this disease and work to improve the treatment options.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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