

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48

BY REPRESENTATIVE TARVER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate September 21-28, 2025, as Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week in 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE