

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. R26-0487.01 Frank Stoner x5498

**SJR26-004**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 26-004**

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

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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.

SENATE  
Final Reading  
January 30, 2026

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.