



HR0359

LRB104 13253 ECR 25448 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, There is a need for statewide awareness of
3 Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD) disease and the suffering it
4 causes individuals and communities that bear witness to its
5 effects; and

6 WHEREAS, FTD is an underdiagnosed neurodegenerative
7 disease that affects more than 60,000 people in the United
8 States; the disease is typically found in people aged 21 to 80,
9 with the largest percentage of people affecting being under
10 the age of 65; and

11 WHEREAS, FTD can impact behavior, decision-making,
12 personality, language, and/or movement, and the disease has an
13 average life expectancy of seven to 13 years after diagnosis;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Due to FTD's low estimated prevalence in the
16 U.S., many members of the medical community remain unfamiliar
17 with the disease; and

18 WHEREAS, FTD is frequently misdiagnosed as Alzheimer's
19 disease, Parkinson's disease, or a psychiatric condition, such
20 as depression, and it takes a FTD patient about 3.6 years, on
21 average, to get an accurate diagnosis; and

1 WHEREAS, There is currently no cure or treatment available
2 to slow the progress of FTD; and

3 WHEREAS, Kara Kirby was diagnosed with a behavioral
4 variant of FTD at the age of 29, and she was checked into the
5 Mayo Clinic because no medical expert in her area could
6 diagnosis her; she was cared for by her parents until this
7 progressive, incurable disease took her life on New Year's Day
8 in 2023 at the young age of 33; and

9 WHEREAS, Kara Kirby's story reminds us all of the need for
10 awareness and support for a disease that is largely
11 misunderstood, misdiagnosed, and underfunded; and

12 WHEREAS, Establishing a FTD Awareness Week will help
13 increase understanding and support for this deadly disease;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Similar efforts are underway in other states
16 across the country, including Maryland, Ohio, Oklahoma,
17 Tennessee, and West Virginia; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
20 we declare September 21 through September 28, 2025 as FTD

1 Awareness Week in the State of Illinois to bring attention to
2 Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD) disease.