

By Senator Brodeur

10-02278A-26

20261784

Senate Resolution

A resolution designating May 2026 as "PSP Awareness Month" in Florida and recognizing the commitment of patients, their families, and health care professionals to increase awareness and research regarding progressive supranuclear palsy and other neurodegenerative diseases.

WHEREAS, progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) is one of many neurodegenerative brain disorders affecting the aging population, causing progressive gait and balance difficulties, frequent falls, ocular impairment, slow or stiff movement, slurred speech, mood or behavioral changes, and cognitive decline, and

WHEREAS, PSP is one of the most common forms of atypical parkinsonism, based on more than 20 studies, with an estimated prevalence in Florida of approximately 7 cases per 100,000 residents from 2015 to 2023, and the mean age of onset is typically between 63 and 67 years of age, and

WHEREAS, neurodegenerative diseases include Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; Huntington's disease; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease; and other disorders and forms of dementia, and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the Legislature passed CS/SB 186, the "Justo R. Cortes Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Act," which directed the State Surgeon General to establish a policy committee on PSP and other neurodegenerative diseases and to have the committee submit a report of its findings to Governor Ron DeSantis and the Legislature by January 4, 2026, and

10-02278A-26

20261784

30 WHEREAS, the policy committee's findings include an
31 estimated direct medical cost for PSP in the United States of
32 \$25.4 billion per year, along with estimated indirect and
33 nonmedical costs of \$26.5 billion annually for such things as
34 missed work, lost wages, forced early retirement, and family
35 caregiver time, and

36 WHEREAS, PSP and Parkinson's disease share similar
37 symptoms, resulting in misdiagnosis and potential delay in
38 critical care and support, and the policy committee concluded
39 that identification and early diagnosis of these disorders is
40 vital, and

41 WHEREAS, patients with these neurodegenerative diseases
42 have complex needs that require a multidisciplinary approach to
43 care involving physicians, nurses, rehabilitation specialists,
44 allied health providers, and caregivers, and

45 WHEREAS, the policy committee recommendations include
46 addressing the need to identify risk factors that would aid in
47 detection of the diseases, understanding how the diseases impact
48 residents, developing the standards of care necessary for
49 effective treatment, and crafting policy recommendations to help
50 improve patient and caregiver awareness of PSP and other
51 neurodegenerative diseases, and

52 WHEREAS, progress in addressing the devastating impact of
53 PSP and related conditions depends upon increasing the public's
54 awareness of the diseases, as well as public health initiatives
55 to educate individuals about early symptoms, promoting more
56 intensive research efforts, and educating health care
57 practitioners on recognizing signs and symptoms related to PSP
58 and similar disorders, NOW, THEREFORE,

10-02278A-26

20261784

59

60 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

61

62 That the Senate designates May 2026 as "PSP Awareness
63 Month" in Florida and recognizes the commitment of patients,
64 their families, and health care professions to increase
65 awareness and research regarding progressive supranuclear palsy
66 and other neurodegenerative diseases.