

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution designating May 2026 as "PSP Awareness
3 Month" in Florida and recognizing the commitment of
4 patients, their families, and health care professions
5 to increase awareness and research regarding
6 progressive supranuclear palsy and other
7 neurodegenerative diseases.
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9 WHEREAS, progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) is one of
10 many neurodegenerative brain disorders affecting the aging
11 population, causing progressive gait and balance difficulties,
12 frequent falls, ocular impairment, slow or stiff movement,
13 slurred speech, mood or behavioral changes, and cognitive
14 decline, and

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

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

24 WHEREAS, in 2024, the Legislature passed chapter 2024-165,
25 Laws of Florida, the "Justo R. Cortes Progressive Supranuclear

26 Palsy Act," and, as required by the act, the State Surgeon
27 General established a policy committee on PSP and other
28 neurodegenerative diseases and the committee submitted a report
29 of its findings to Governor Ron DeSantis and the Legislature,
30 and

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

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

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

46 WHEREAS, the policy committee recommendations included
47 addressing the need to identify risk factors that would aid in
48 detection of the diseases, understanding how the diseases impact
49 residents, developing the standards of care necessary for
50 effective treatment, and crafting policy recommendations to help

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51 | improve patient and caregiver awareness of PSP and other
52 | neurodegenerative diseases, and

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

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61 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
62 | Florida:

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