

**BY:** Senator HINCHEY

**MEMORIALIZING** Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 28 - October 4, 2026, as Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week in the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official weeks that are set aside to increase awareness of serious health conditions that affect the lives of citizens of New York State; and

**WHEREAS,** Attendant to such concern and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 28 - October 4, 2026, as Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week in the State of New York, in conjunction with the observance of World Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week; and

**WHEREAS,** Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD) is a terminal and incurable brain disease affecting the frontal and temporal lobes causing impairments to speech, personality, behavior and motor skills; and

**WHEREAS,** FTD is one of the most difficult diseases with much unknown; often affecting people in the prime of their lives and leaving them with little understanding of how the diagnosis will disrupt their future, change their relationships with family and friends, and hinder their ability to continue to live their lives; and

**WHEREAS,** FTD represents an estimated 10-20 percent of all dementia cases and is the most common form of dementia for people under the age of 60; and

**WHEREAS,** Frontotemporal Degeneration is often misdiagnosed as a psychiatric problem or other neurodegenerative disease because of the wide range of cognitive and behavioral symptoms and its young onset; and

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

**WHEREAS,** Frontotemporal Degeneration often affects a person's ability to express emotions show affection and empathy for loved ones; and

**WHEREAS,** In the behavioral variant of FTD, a person's sense of social graces and appropriate behavior can be lost, and their personality may be significantly changed, or they may choose to do things that would otherwise be entirely out of character; and

**WHEREAS,** In the language variants of FTD (primary progressive aphasia), a person may have trouble producing speech and understanding grammar, lose the meaning of words or become hesitant in their speech

and may eventually become mute; and

**WHEREAS,** In the movement variants of Frontotemporal Degeneration, a person may experience muscle weakness, falling, loss of balance, difficulty making speech, difficulty swallowing, or choking; and

**WHEREAS,** While there has never been a global epidemiology study of FTD, it is estimated that between 50,000 and 60,000 people are affected in the United States today; 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 so that we can eradicate this disease once and for all; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim September 28 - October 4, 2026, as Frontotemporal Degeneration Awareness Week in the State of New York; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.