

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13
2 FLOOR AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by Delegate Sullivan
4 on February 7, 2024)
5 (Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Sullivan)

6 Designating May, in 2024 and in each succeeding year, as Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Month of
7 Awareness in Virginia.

8 WHEREAS, progressive supranuclear palsy, also known as PSP, is a neurodegenerative disease
9 affecting the brain cells, particularly in areas that control mobility, balance, walking, speech, swallowing,
10 vision, behavior, and cognitive abilities; and

11 WHEREAS, while estimates vary and are often undercounted and misdiagnosed, more than 20,000
12 Americans are diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, on average, symptoms manifest after age 60 and can have a severe impact on an
14 individual's quality of life; and

15 WHEREAS, there is currently no known effective treatment, no known cure, and no known cause
16 of progressive supranuclear palsy; some symptoms may be managed with medication and care, but the
17 lack of understanding about the disease has often led to misdiagnosis, which has in turn caused significant
18 delays in proper intervention and hindered clinical trials; and

19 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health has made strides in the understanding and treatment
20 of progressive supranuclear palsy; and

21 WHEREAS, it is vital to continue supporting research on progressive supranuclear palsy, as people
22 with the disease can become severely disabled within three to five years of the first onset of symptoms;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, CurePSP is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and
25 promoting care programs and cure research for progressive supranuclear palsy and two other
26 neurodegenerative diseases: corticobasal degeneration and multiple system atrophy; and

27 WHEREAS, in September 2023, United States Representative Jennifer Wexton, a friend and
28 former colleague who previously served in the Senate of Virginia, announced that she had been diagnosed
29 with progressive supranuclear palsy; and

30 WHEREAS, like many individuals with progressive supranuclear palsy, Congresswoman Wexton
31 was initially diagnosed with Parkinson's disease; she is courageously fighting the disease and has pledged
32 to amplify the voices of those suffering from progressive supranuclear palsy and to raise awareness of the
33 disease both among members of the public and in the health care community; and

34 WHEREAS, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Month of Awareness provides an opportunity for all
35 Virginians to learn more about progressive supranuclear palsy and seek ways to support research into
36 treatment and cures or to provide hope and assistance to people living with the disease and their families;
37 now, therefore, be it

38 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly
39 designate May, in 2024 and in each succeeding year, as Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Month of
40 Awareness in Virginia; and, be it

41 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this
42 resolution to CurePSP so that members of the organization may be apprised of the sense of the General
43 Assembly of Virginia in this matter; and, be it

44 RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this
45 month on the General Assembly's website.

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