

Resolution

Whereas, residents of Brevard County are among those affected by myositis and other rare diseases, because nearly one in ten Americans have rare diseases; and,

Whereas, idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (collectively referred to as myositis) are rare, chronic, autoimmune muscle wasting diseases; and, myositis often features debilitating muscle inflammation and other symptoms, such as pain, fatigue, and trouble swallowing; and, myositis can result in myositis-associated interstitial lung disease; and,

Whereas, more research is needed to identify the causes of and modes of treatments for the myositis group of diseases, which includes anti-MDA5 autoantibody positive myositis; antisynthetase syndrome; dermatomyositis; juvenile dermatomyositis; immune-mediated necrotizing myopathy; inclusion body myositis; and polymyositis; and,

Whereas, myositis is difficult to diagnose, so treatment is often delayed, and individuals generally experience difficulty finding a health care provider with expertise in their condition; and,

Whereas, all who suffer with myositis experience reduced quality of life, especially as no cure has been found and life expectancy is shortened, especially for those with inclusion body myositis; and, women and people of color with all forms of myositis experience particularly pronounced health disparities; and,

Whereas, The Myositis Association (TMA) is the leading international patient advocacy organization serving the myositis community, focusing on patient services, education, research, and public awareness, so as to achieve a world without myositis; and,

Whereas, The Myositis Association is organizing a nationwide observance of Myositis Awareness Month from May 1-31, 2026;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Brevard County Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim

May 2026 as Myositis Awareness Month in Brevard County

and that all citizens of Brevard County are encouraged to come together, learn more about all the forms of myositis and its symptoms, and support the families in our community who will benefit from greater awareness of these rare diseases.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED, in regular session, this 19th, day of May 2026 A.D.

ATTEST:

Rachel M. Sadoff, Clerk

Thad Altman, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA