

By Senator Rodriguez

39-02370-21

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the week of May 2-8, 2021, as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Florida and encouraging all Floridians to become better informed about tardive dyskinesia.

WHEREAS, many people with serious, chronic mental illness, such as schizophrenia and other schizoaffective disorders, bipolar disorder, or severe depression, require treatment with medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents (DRBAs), including antipsychotics, and

WHEREAS, many people who have gastrointestinal disorders, including gastroparesis, nausea, and vomiting, also require treatment with DRBAs, and

WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with these medications can be very helpful, and even lifesaving, for many people, it also can lead to tardive dyskinesia (TD), a movement disorder that is characterized by random, involuntary, and uncontrolled movements of different muscles in the face, torso, and extremities, and

WHEREAS, TD commonly manifests through movement of the arms, legs, fingers, or toes and, in some cases, may affect the tongue, lips, and jaw, and

WHEREAS, other symptoms of TD include involuntary swaying of the torso or hips and involuntary movement of the muscles associated with walking, speech, eating, and breathing, and

WHEREAS, TD can develop months, years, or decades after a person starts taking DRBAs and even after discontinuing the use of those medications, and, while not everyone who takes a DRBA develops TD, those who do often find the aftereffects are

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30 permanent, and

31 WHEREAS, common risk factors for TD include advanced age
32 and alcoholism or other substance abuse disorders, and
33 postmenopausal women and people with mood disorders also are at
34 higher risk of developing TD, and

35 WHEREAS, a person's risk for TD increases after taking
36 DRBAs for just 3 months, and the longer the person takes these
37 medications, the higher his or her risk, and

38 WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 500,000 people in
39 the United States suffer from TD, and the National Alliance for
40 Mental Illness estimates that one in every four patients
41 receiving long-term treatment with an antipsychotic medication
42 will experience TD, and

43 WHEREAS, TD is often unrecognized, and patients suffering
44 from the illness are commonly misdiagnosed, and

45 WHEREAS, patients suffering from TD often suffer
46 embarrassment due to their abnormal and involuntary movements,
47 which leads them to withdraw from society and increasingly
48 isolate themselves as the disease progresses, and

49 WHEREAS, caregivers of patients with TD face many
50 challenges and are often responsible for their overall care, and

51 WHEREAS, years of research have resulted in recent
52 scientific breakthroughs, with two new TD treatments approved by
53 the United States Food and Drug Administration, and

54 WHEREAS, the American Psychiatric Association recommends
55 regular screening for TD in patients taking DRBAs, NOW,

56 THEREFORE,

57
58 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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60 That the week of May 2-8, 2021, is recognized as "Tardive
61 Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Florida and that all Floridians
62 are encouraged to become better informed about tardive
63 dyskinesia.