

HR 8043

2021

## House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the week of May 2-8, 2021, as  
"Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Florida.

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 can  
also lead to tardive dyskinesia (TD), a movement disorder that  
is characterized by random, involuntary, and uncontrolled  
movements of different muscles in the face, trunk, 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

HR 8043

2021

26 | person starts taking DRBAs and even after discontinuing the use  
27 | of those medications, and, while not everyone who takes a DRBA  
28 | develops TD, those who do often find the aftereffects are  
29 | permanent, and

30 |       WHEREAS, people at a higher risk factor for TD include  
31 | those who are at an advanced age, those who struggle with  
32 | alcoholism or other substance abuse disorders, those who  
33 | struggle with mood disorders, and postmenopausal women, and

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

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

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

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

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

50 |       WHEREAS, years of research have resulted in recent

HR 8043

2021

51 | scientific breakthroughs, with two new TD treatments approved by  
52 | the United States Food and Drug Administration, and

53 |       WHEREAS, hospitals in Florida currently provide services to  
54 | diagnose, treat, and study this disease, and

55 |       WHEREAS, the American Psychiatric Association recommends  
56 | regular screening for TD for patients taking DRBAs, NOW,  
57 | THEREFORE,

58 |

59 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
60 | Florida:

61 |

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