

HR 8021

2022

## House Resolution

A resolution recognizing the week of May 1-7, 2022, 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  
person starts taking DRBAs and even after discontinuing the use

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26 | of those medications, and, while not everyone who takes a DRBA  
27 | develops TD, those who do often find the aftereffects are  
28 | permanent, and

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

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

36 |       WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 600,000 people in  
37 | the United States suffer from TD, and the National Alliance on  
38 | Mental Illness estimates that one in every four patients  
39 | receiving long-term treatment with an antipsychotic medication  
40 | will experience TD, and

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

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

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

49 |       WHEREAS, years of research have resulted in recent  
50 | scientific breakthroughs, with two new TD treatments approved by

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51 | the United States Food and Drug Administration, and  
52 |       WHEREAS, hospitals in Florida currently provide services to  
53 | diagnose, treat, and study this disease, and

54 |       WHEREAS, the National Organization for Tardive Dyskinesia  
55 | is headquartered in Florida and uses its website, TDHelp.org, to  
56 | provide resources for individuals living with TD in the state  
57 | and around the world, and

58 |       WHEREAS, the American Psychiatric Association recommends  
59 | regular screening for TD for patients taking DRBAs, NOW,

60 | THEREFORE,

61 |  
62 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
63 | Florida:

64 |  
65 |       That the week of May 1-7, 2022, is recognized as "Tardive  
66 | Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Florida and that all Floridians  
67 | are encouraged to become better informed about tardive  
68 | dyskinesia.