

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

Senators McDonald Rivet, Brinks, Chang, Cherry and Geiss offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to designate May 1-6, 2023, as Tardive Dyskinesia  
2 Awareness Week.

3 Whereas, Many people with serious, chronic mental illness,  
4 such as schizophrenia and other schizoaffective disorders, bipolar  
5 disorder, or severe depression, require treatment with medications  
6 that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents (DRBAs), including  
7 antipsychotics; and

8 Whereas, Individuals who have gastrointestinal disorders,  
9 including gastroparesis, nausea, and vomiting also require  
10 treatment with DRBAs. The treatment of gastrointestinal disorders  
11 with DRBAs can be very helpful, but for many patients can also lead

1 to tardive dyskinesia (TD); and

2       Whereas, While ongoing treatment with these medications can be  
3 very helpful, and even lifesaving, for many people it can also lead  
4 to TD; and

5       Whereas, TD is a movement disorder that is characterized by  
6 random, involuntary, and uncontrolled movements of different  
7 muscles in the face, trunk, and extremities. In some cases, people  
8 may experience movement of the arms, legs, fingers, and toes. In  
9 some cases, it may also affect the tongue, lips, and jaw. In other  
10 cases, symptoms may include swaying movements of the trunk or hips,  
11 and it may also impact the muscles associated with walking, speech,  
12 eating, and breathing; and

13       Whereas, Tardive dyskinesia can develop months, years, or  
14 decades after a person starts taking DRBAs and even after they have  
15 discontinued the use of those medications. Not everyone who takes a  
16 DRBA develops TD, but if developed, it is often permanent; and

17       Whereas, Common risk factors for TD include advanced age and  
18 alcoholism or other substance abuse disorders. Postmenopausal women  
19 and people with a mood disorder are also at higher risk of  
20 developing TD; and

21       Whereas, A person is at higher risk for TD after taking DRBAs  
22 for three months or longer, but the longer the person is on these  
23 medications, the higher the risk of developing tardive dyskinesia;  
24 and

25       Whereas, Studies suggest that the overall risk of developing  
26 tardive dyskinesia is between 10 and 30 percent; and

27       Whereas, It is estimated that over 600,000 Americans suffer  
28 from tardive dyskinesia. According to the National Alliance for  
29 Mental Illness (NAMI), one in four patients receiving long-term

1 treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience tardive  
2 dyskinesia; and

3       Whereas, Years of both difficult and challenging research have  
4 resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs, with two new  
5 treatments for tardive dyskinesia approved by the United States  
6 Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and

7       Whereas, Tardive dyskinesia is often unrecognized and patients  
8 suffering from the illness are commonly misdiagnosed. Regular  
9 screening for TD in patients taking DRBA medications is recommended  
10 by the American Psychiatric Association (APA); and

11       Whereas, Patients suffering from tardive dyskinesia often  
12 suffer embarrassment due to abnormal and involuntary movements,  
13 which leads them to withdraw from society as well as an increase in  
14 self-isolation as the disease progresses; and

15       Whereas, Caregivers of patients with tardive dyskinesia also  
16 face many challenges and are often responsible for the overall care  
17 of the TD patient; now, therefore, be it

18       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
19 body designate May 1-6, 2023, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week;  
20 and be it further

21       Resolved, That we raise awareness of tardive dyskinesia in the  
22 public and medical community and encourage individuals in the  
23 United States to become better informed about tardive dyskinesia.