

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

Senator McDonald Rivet 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  
12 to tardive dyskinesia (TD); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 dyskinesia; and

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

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

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

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

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

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