

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.125

Senators Hertel, Hollier, McCann, Wojno, Brinks, Geiss, Bullock and Bayer offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to observe May 1-7, 2022, 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 tardive dyskinesia; 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 tardive dyskinesia include
18 advanced age and alcoholism or other substance abuse disorders.
19 Postmenopausal women and people with a mood disorder are also at
20 higher risk of developing tardive dyskinesia; 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 observe May 1-7, 2022, 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.