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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY AS TARDIVE DYSKINESIA  
AWARENESS WEEK.

1           WHEREAS, many people with serious, chronic mental illness,  
2 such as schizophrenia and other schizoaffective disorders,  
3 bipolar disorder, or severe depression, require treatment with  
4 medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents,  
5 including antipsychotics; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with these medications can  
8 be very helpful, and even lifesaving, for many people, it can  
9 also lead to tardive dyskinesia; and  
10

11           WHEREAS, many people who have gastrointestinal disorders,  
12 including gastroparesis or gastrointestinal symptoms including  
13 nausea, and vomiting also require treatment with dopamine  
14 receptor blocking agents; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, treatment of gastrointestinal disorders with  
17 dopamine receptor blocking agents can be very helpful, but for  
18 many patients can lead to tardive dyskinesia; and  
19

20           WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia is a movement disorder that is  
21 characterized by random involuntary and uncontrolled movements  
22 of different muscles in the face, trunk, and extremities. Some  
23 people may experience movement of the arms, legs, fingers, and  
24 toes. In some cases, it may affect the tongue, lips, and jaw.  
25 Symptoms may also include swaying movements of the trunk or hips  
26 and may impact the muscles associated with walking, speech,  
27 eating, and breathing; and  
28

29           WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia can develop months, years, or  
30 decades after a person starts taking dopamine receptor blocking  
31 agents and can even develop after they have discontinued use of  
32 those medications. Not everyone who takes a dopamine receptor



1 blocking agent develops tardive dyskinesia, but if it does  
2 develop it is often permanent; and  
3

4 WHEREAS, common risk factors for tardive dyskinesia include  
5 advanced age and alcoholism or other substance abuse disorders.  
6 Postmenopausal women and people with mood disorders are also at  
7 higher risk of developing tardive dyskinesia; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, a person is at higher risk for tardive dyskinesia  
10 after taking dopamine receptor blocking agents for three months  
11 or longer, but the longer the person is on these medications,  
12 the higher the risk of developing tardive dyskinesia; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, studies suggest that overall risk of developing  
15 tardive dyskinesia is between ten and thirty percent; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 500,000 Americans suffer  
18 from tardive dyskinesia. According to the National Alliance for  
19 Mental Illness one in every four patients receiving long-term  
20 treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience  
21 tardive dyskinesia; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, years of difficult and challenging research have  
24 resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs with two new  
25 treatments for tardive dyskinesia approved by the United States  
26 Food and Drug Administration; and,  
27

28 WHEREAS, last year, twenty-eight states and the District of  
29 Columbia issued legislative resolutions and Governors'  
30 proclamations declaring the first full week of May as Tardive  
31 Dyskinesia Awareness Week. Hawaii is encouraged to advocacy  
32 groups such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Mental  
33 Health America, the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, the  
34 American Academy of Neurology, and the American Psychiatric  
35 Association in support of the mental health community; and  
36 therefore,  
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38 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
39 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of  
40 2020, the Senate concurring, that the week of May 3, 2020 be  
41 designated as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week"; and,  
42



# H.C.R. NO. 172

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this designation will encourage  
 2 the Department of Education, the Department of Health, and the  
 3 United States Department of Health and Human Services to  
 4 increase public awareness so each individual in the United  
 5 States becomes better informed and aware of tardive dyskinesia;  
 6 and

7  
 8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 9 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Chairperson of  
 10 the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, the  
 11 Director of Health, and the United States Department of Health  
 12 and Human Services.  
 13

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