
HOUSE 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
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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
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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
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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
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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
33



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

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

7
8 WHEREAS, a person is at higher risk for tardive dyskinesia
9 after taking dopamine receptor blocking agents for three months
10 or longer, but the longer the person is on these medications,
11 the higher the risk of developing tardive dyskinesia; and

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

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

21
22 WHEREAS, years of difficult and challenging research have
23 resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs with two new
24 treatments for tardive dyskinesia approved by the United States
25 Food and Drug Administration; and,

26
27 WHEREAS, last year, twenty-eight states and the District of
28 Columbia issued legislative resolutions and Governors'
29 proclamations declaring the first full week of May as Tardive
30 Dyskinesia Awareness Week. Hawaii is encouraged to advocacy
31 groups such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Mental
32 Health America, the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, the
33 American Academy of Neurology, and the American Psychiatric
34 Association in support of the mental health community; and
35 therefore,

36
37 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
38 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of
39 2020, that the week of May 3, 2020 be designated as "Tardive
40 Dyskinesia Awareness Week"; and,

41



H.R. NO. 151

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.
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OFFERED BY:

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