

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 45

Senators Hertel, Bayer and McMorrow offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to observe May 2-8, 2021, 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, While ongoing treatment with these medications can be
9 very helpful, and even lifesaving, for many people it can also lead
10 to tardive dyskinesia (TD); and

11 Whereas, Many people who have gastrointestinal disorders,

1 including gastroparesis, nausea, and vomiting also require
2 treatment with DRBAs; and

3 Whereas, The treatment of gastrointestinal disorders with
4 DRBAs can be very helpful, but for many patients can also lead to
5 tardive dyskinesia; and

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

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

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

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

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

28 Whereas, It is estimated that over 500,000 Americans suffer
29 from tardive dyskinesia. According to the National Alliance for

1 Mental Illness (NAMI), one in every four patients receiving long-
2 term treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience
3 tardive dyskinesia; and

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

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

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

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

19 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
20 body observe May 2-8, 2021, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week;
21 and be it further

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