

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 45

Senator Hertel 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,  
12 including gastroparesis, nausea, and vomiting also require

1 treatment with DRBAs; and

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

5       Whereas, Tardive dyskinesia is a movement disorder that is  
6 characterized by random, involuntary, and uncontrolled movements of  
7 different muscles in the face, trunk, and extremities. In some  
8 cases, people may experience movement of the arms, legs, fingers,  
9 and toes. In some cases, it may affect the tongue, lips, and jaw.  
10 In other cases, symptoms may include swaying movements of the trunk  
11 or hips, and it may also impact the muscles associated with  
12 walking, speech, 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 500,000 Americans suffer  
28 from tardive dyskinesia. According to the National Alliance for  
29 Mental Illness (NAMI), one in every four patients receiving long-

1 term treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience  
2 tardive 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 2-8, 2021, 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 each individual in the  
23 United States to become better informed about tardive dyskinesia.