

1 WHEREAS, Many people with serious, chronic mental illness, such
2 as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, severe depression, or
3 gastrointestinal disorders, including gastroparesis and nausea,
4 require treatment with medications that work as dopamine receptor
5 blocking agents (DRBAs), including antipsychotics; and

6 WHEREAS, While ongoing treatment with these medications can be
7 very helpful, and even lifesaving, for many people, it can also lead
8 to Tardive Dyskinesia (TD); and

9 WHEREAS, Tardive Dyskinesia is a movement disorder that is
10 characterized by random, involuntary, and uncontrolled movements of
11 different muscles in the face, trunk and extremities; and

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

16 WHEREAS, It is estimated that over 600,000 Americans suffer from
17 Tardive Dyskinesia. According to the National Alliance for Mental
18 Illness, one in every four patients receiving long-term treatment
19 with an antipsychotic medication will experience Tardive Dyskinesia;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Years of difficult and challenging research have
22 resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs, with two new treatments

1 for Tardive Dyskinesia approved by the United States Food and Drug
2 Administration; and

3 WHEREAS, Tardive Dyskinesia is often unrecognized and patients
4 suffering from the illness are commonly misdiagnosed. Regular
5 screening for TD in patients taking DRBA medications is recommended
6 by the American Psychiatric Association; and

7 WHEREAS, Governor Inslee has designated the week of May 1, 2022,
8 as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" and May is Mental Health
9 Awareness Month;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House
11 of Representatives encourage awareness of Tardive Dyskinesia so we
12 can better understand the causes and seek a cure for all those
13 suffering; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of
15 Representatives hopes research will continue to advance thereby
16 creating more options for people seeking medication for chronic
17 mental illness in the future.

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