

By Senator Rodriguez

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the week of May 1, 2022, as
"Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, many people who have a serious, chronic mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or severe depression, or who have a gastrointestinal disorder like gastroparesis or symptoms like nausea and vomiting, require treatment with medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents (DRBAs), including antipsychotics, and

WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with these medications can be very helpful, and even lifesaving, it can also lead those undergoing treatment to experience tardive dyskinesia (TD), and

WHEREAS, TD is a movement disorder characterized by random, involuntary, and uncontrolled movements of different muscles in the face, trunk, and extremities, and

WHEREAS, TD can develop months, years, or decades after a person starts taking DRBAs, even after he or she has discontinued use of those medications, and is often permanent, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than 600,000 Americans suffer from TD, and the National Alliance for Mental Illness reports that one in every four patients receiving long-term treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience TD, and

WHEREAS, TD research has resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs, including two new treatments approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, and

WHEREAS, TD is often unrecognized, and patients suffering

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30 from the illness are commonly misdiagnosed, leading the American
31 Psychiatric Association to recommend heightened awareness of and
32 regular screening for TD in patients taking DRBAs, NOW,
33 THEREFORE,

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35 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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37 That the week of May 1, 2022, is recognized as "Tardive
38 Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Florida.