
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 95 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY COLLETT, FONTANA, KEARNEY, PHILLIPS-HILL, HUGHES,
BROWNE, STREET, VOGEL, KANE, STEFANO, SANTARSIERO AND COSTA,
APRIL 27, 2021

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 27, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the week of May 2 through 8, 2021, as "Tardive
2 Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Many peoples with serious, chronic mental illness,
4 such as schizophrenia and other schizoaffective disorders,
5 bipolar disorder or severe depression, require treatment with
6 medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents
7 (DRBAs), including antipsychotics; and

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

11 WHEREAS, Many people who have gastrointestinal disorders,
12 including gastroparesis, nausea and vomiting, also require
13 treatment with DRBAs; and

14 WHEREAS, Treatment of gastrointestinal disorders with DRBAs
15 can be very helpful, but for many patients can lead to TD; and

16 WHEREAS, TD is a movement disorder that is characterized by
17 random, involuntary and uncontrolled movements of different

1 muscles in the face, trunk and extremities; and

2 WHEREAS, In some cases, people may experience movement of the
3 arms, legs, fingers, and toes; and

4 WHEREAS, In some case, TD may affect the tongue, lips and
5 jaw; and

6 WHEREAS, In other cases, symptoms may include swaying
7 movements of the trunk or hips and may impact the muscles
8 associated with walking, speech, eating and breathing; and

9 WHEREAS, TD can develop months, years or decades after a
10 person starts taking DRBAs and even after they have discontinued
11 use of those medications; and

12 WHEREAS, Not everyone who takes a DRBA develops TD, but if it
13 develops it is often permanent; and

14 WHEREAS, Common risk factors for TD include advanced age and
15 alcoholism or other substance abuse disorders; and

16 WHEREAS, Postmenopausal women and people with a mood disorder
17 are also higher risk of developing TD; and

18 WHEREAS, A person is at higher risk for TD after taking DRBAs
19 for three months or longer, but the longer the person is on
20 these medications, the higher the risk of developing TD; and

21 WHEREAS, Studies suggest that overall risk of developing TD
22 is between 10% and 30%; and

23 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 500,000 Americans
24 suffer from TD; and

25 WHEREAS, According to the National Alliance for Mental
26 Illness, one in every four patients receiving long-term
27 treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience TD;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Years of difficult and challenging research have
30 resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs, with two new

1 treatments for TD approved by the United States Food and Drug
2 Administration; and

3 WHEREAS, TD is often unrecognized and patients suffering from
4 the illness are commonly misdiagnosed; and

5 WHEREAS, Regular screening for TD in patients taking DRBAs is
6 recommended by the American Psychiatric Association; and

7 WHEREAS, Patients suffering from TD often suffer
8 embarrassment due to abnormal and involuntary movements, which
9 leads them to withdraw from society and increasingly isolate
10 themselves as the disease progresses; and

11 WHEREAS, Caregivers of patients with TD face many challenges
12 and are often responsible for the overall care of the TD
13 patient; and

14 WHEREAS, the Senate can raise awareness of TD in the public
15 and medical community; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the week of May 2, 2021,
17 as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania; and be
18 it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage each individual in
20 Pennsylvania and the United States to become better informed
21 about and aware of Tardive Dyskinesia.