



## 2021 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 17

May 3, 2021 - Introduced by Representatives CABRAL-GUEVARA, ROZAR, CABRERA, BALDEH, DUCHOW, HEBL, MAGNAFICI, MILROY, MOSES, THIESFELDT, SINICKI and STUBBS. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1     **Relating to:** designating the week of May 2, 2021, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness  
2         Week.

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

7         Whereas, while ongoing treatment with these DRBA medications can be very  
8     helpful, and even lifesaving, for many people it can also lead to tardive dyskinesia;  
9     and

10        Whereas, many people who have gastrointestinal disorders, including  
11     gastroparesis, nausea, and vomiting, also require treatment with DRBAs; and

12        Whereas, treatment of gastrointestinal disorders with DRBAs can be very  
13     helpful, but for many patients the treatment can lead to tardive dyskinesia; and

14        Whereas, tardive dyskinesia is a movement disorder that is characterized by  
15     random, involuntary, and uncontrolled movements of different muscles in the face,

1 trunk, and extremities. In some cases, people may experience movement of the arms,  
2 legs, fingers, and toes. In some cases, the disorder may affect the tongue, lips, and  
3 jaw. In other cases, symptoms may include swaying movements of the trunk or hips  
4 and may impact the muscles associated with walking, speech, eating, and breathing;  
5 and

6 Whereas, tardive dyskinesia can develop in the months, years, or decades after  
7 a person starts taking DRBAs and even after they have discontinued use of those  
8 medications. Not everyone who takes a DRBA develops tardive dyskinesia, but if it  
9 develops it is often permanent; and

10 Whereas, common risk factors for tardive dyskinesia include advanced age and  
11 alcoholism or other substance abuse disorders. Postmenopausal women and people  
12 with a mood disorder are also at higher risk of developing tardive dyskinesia; and

13 Whereas, a person is at higher risk for tardive dyskinesia after taking DRBAs  
14 for three months or longer, but the longer the person is on those medications, the  
15 higher the risk of developing tardive dyskinesia; and

16 Whereas, studies suggest that the overall risk of developing tardive dyskinesia  
17 is between 10 and 30 percent; and

18 Whereas, it is estimated that over 500,000 Americans suffer from tardive  
19 dyskinesia. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in four  
20 patients receiving long-term treatment with an antipsychotic medication will  
21 experience tardive dyskinesia; and

22 Whereas, years of difficult and challenging research have resulted in recent  
23 scientific breakthroughs, with two new treatments for tardive dyskinesia approved  
24 by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

1           Whereas, tardive dyskinesia is often unrecognized and patients suffering from  
2           the illness are commonly misdiagnosed. Regular screening for tardive dyskinesia in  
3           patients taking DRBA medications is recommended by the American Psychiatric  
4           Association; and

5           Whereas, patients suffering from tardive dyskinesia often suffer  
6           embarrassment due to abnormal and involuntary movements, which leads them to  
7           withdraw from society and increasingly isolate themselves as the disease progresses;  
8           and

9           Whereas, caregivers of patients with tardive dyskinesia face many challenges  
10          and are often responsible for the overall care of the tardive dyskinesia patient; and

11          Whereas, the assembly can raise awareness of tardive dyskinesia in the public  
12          and in the medical community; now, therefore, be it

13          ***Resolved by the assembly, That*** the members of the Wisconsin Assembly  
14          designate the week of May 2, 2021, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week; and, be  
15          it further

16          ***Resolved, That*** the members of the Wisconsin Assembly encourage each  
17          individual in the United States to become better informed about and aware of tardive  
18          dyskinesia.

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(END)