

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. SJ0006

Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Pappas and Baldwin and  
Representative(s) Brown, Dayton and Sweeney

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION creating awareness of Tardive Dyskinesia  
2 and designating the first full week of May as Tardive  
3 Dyskinesia Awareness Week.

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5 WHEREAS, many people with serious, chronic mental illnesses  
6 including schizophrenia and other schizoaffective disorders,  
7 bipolar disorder or severe depression require treatment with  
8 medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents  
9 (DRBAs), including antipsychotics; and

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11 WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with these medications can  
12 be helpful and lifesaving for many people it can also lead to  
13 Tardive Dyskinesia (TD); and

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15 WHEREAS, many people who have gastrointestinal disorders  
16 including gastroparesis, nausea and vomiting also require  
17 treatment with DRBAs; and

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2 WHEREAS, treatment of gastrointestinal disorders with DRBAs  
3 can be helpful but can also lead to TD; and

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

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9 WHEREAS, in some cases, people with TD may experience  
10 involuntary and uncontrolled movement of the arms, legs,  
11 fingers, toes, tongue, lips, jaw, swaying movements of the  
12 trunk or hips or impacts to the muscles associated with  
13 walking, speech, eating and breathing; and

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

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19 WHEREAS, not everyone who takes a DRBA develops TD but if it  
20 develops it is often permanent; and

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1 WHEREAS, common risk factors for TD include advanced age,  
2 alcoholism, substance abuse disorders, postmenopausal women  
3 and people with a mood disorder; and

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5 WHEREAS, a person is at higher risk for TD the longer the  
6 person is on DRBAs; and

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8 WHEREAS, studies suggest that the overall risk of developing  
9 TD following prolonged exposure to DRBAs is nearly thirty  
10 percent (30%); and

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12 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over five hundred thousand  
13 (500,000) individuals in the United States suffer from TD;  
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, years of challenging research have resulted in  
17 scientific breakthroughs in the last year, with two (2) new  
18 treatments for TD approved by the United States Food and Drug  
19 Administration; and

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21 WHEREAS, TD is often unrecognized and patients suffering from  
22 the illness are commonly misdiagnosed. Regular screening for

1 TD in patients taking DRBA medications is recommended by the  
2 American Psychiatric Association (APA); and

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4 WHEREAS, a patient taking a DRBA should see his or her  
5 healthcare provider for regular evaluations to ensure that  
6 any signs of TD are recognized. Healthcare providers should  
7 use a rating scale recommended by the APA; and

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

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14 WHEREAS, the caregivers of patients with TD face many  
15 challenges and are often responsible for the overall care of  
16 the TD patient.

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18 *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE*  
19 *LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

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21 **Section 1.** The Wyoming Legislature proclaims the first  
22 full week of May as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week to raise  
23 awareness of this potentially debilitating disease, and to

1 encourage individuals not afflicted with TD to consider the  
2 effects of TD on individuals and society and to encourage  
3 Wyomingites to contribute to charities supporting TD research  
4 and awareness.

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6       **Section 2.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming  
7 transmit copies of this resolution to the National  
8 Organization for Rare Diseases, the National Alliance on  
9 Mental Illness, the American Academy of Neurology, the  
10 American Psychiatric Association and the Wyoming  
11 Congressional Delegation.

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(END)