

By: Representative C. Fite

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY 2022  
AS TARDIVE DYSKINESIA AWARENESS WEEK IN ARKANSAS.

### Subtitle

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE FIRST WEEK  
OF MAY 2022 AS TARDIVE DYSKINESIA  
AWARENESS WEEK IN ARKANSAS.

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

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

WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia can develop months, years, or decades after a person starts taking dopamine receptor blocking agents, even after he or she has discontinued use of those medications, and is often permanent; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that more than six hundred thousand (600,000)



Americans suffer from tardive dyskinesia, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that one (1) in every four (4) patients receiving long-term treatment with antipsychotic medication will experience tardive dyskinesia; and

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

WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia is often unrecognized, and patients suffering from the disorder are sometimes misdiagnosed, leading the American Psychiatric Association to recommend heightened awareness of and regular screening for TARDIVE DYSKINESIA in patients taking DRBAs; and

WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia Awareness Week is recognized in many states across the country during the first week of May each year,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize the first week of May 2022 as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week.