

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 99

Introduced by Walz, 15.

WHEREAS, many individuals with chronic mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and severe depression, or gastrointestinal disorders, including gastroparesis, nausea, and vomiting, require treatment with medications, including antipsychotic medications, that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents; and

WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with these medications may be very helpful, and even lifesaving, for many people use of these medications may also lead to Tardive Dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS, Tardive Dyskinesia is a movement disorder that is characterized by random, involuntary, and uncontrolled movements of different muscles in the face, torso, and extremities; and

WHEREAS, Tardive Dyskinesia may develop months, years, or decades after a person starts taking dopamine receptor blocking agents, even after they have discontinued use of those medications. Not everyone who takes a dopamine receptor blocking agent develops Tardive Dyskinesia, but if it develops the condition is often permanent; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Alliance for Mental Illness, one in every four patients receiving long-term treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience Tardive Dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 500,000 Americans suffer from Tardive Dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS, years of difficult and challenging research have resulted in the recent scientific advancements of two new treatments for Tardive Dyskinesia being approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration; and

WHEREAS, Tardive Dyskinesia is often unrecognized, and patients suffering

from the illness are commonly misdiagnosed. Regular screening for Tardive Dyskinesia in patients taking a dopamine receptor blocking agent medication is recommended by the American Psychiatric Association; and

WHEREAS, a great way to help those who suffer from Tardive Dyskinesia is to raise awareness of Tardive Dyskinesia in the public and medical community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes the week of May 2-8, 2021, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week.
2. That the Legislature encourages each individual in Nebraska to become better informed about and aware of Tardive Dyskinesia.