

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREEMAN

A RESOLUTION

To designate May 1-7, 2023 as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week.

WHEREAS, many persons with serious and chronic mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and severe depression, or severe gastrointestinal disorders such as gastroparesis, nausea, and vomiting, require treatment with medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents, or DRBAs, including antipsychotics; and

WHEREAS, while ongoing treatments with these medications can be very helpful, and even lifesaving for many people, it can also lead to Tardive Dyskinesia, or TD; and

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

WHEREAS, TD can develop months, years, or decades after a person starts taking DRBAs and even after he or she has discontinued use of these medications; and

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

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 600,000 Americans suffer from TD; and

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

WHEREAS, years of difficult and challenging research have resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs, with two new treatments for TD approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

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

WHEREAS, regular screening for TD in patients taking DRBA medications is recommended by the American Psychiatric Association; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana can raise awareness of TD in the public and medical communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate the week of May 1-7, 2023, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week and does hereby encourage all citizens of Louisiana to become better informed and aware of Tardive Dyskinesia.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES