

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2022

Source
HCR 9

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
11



Designating May 1 - 7, 2022, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

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

WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with dopamine receptor blocking agents can be very helpful, and even lifesaving, taking these medications can 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, trunk, and extremities; and

WHEREAS, although not everyone who takes a dopamine receptor blocking agent develops tardive dyskinesia, the disorder can develop months, years, or decades after a person starts taking these medications, can continue even after the person has discontinued the use of the medications, and can even be permanent; and

WHEREAS it is estimated that over 500,000 Americans suffer from tardive

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

WHEREAS, because tardive dyskinesia is often unrecognized and patients suffering from it are commonly misdiagnosed, the American Psychiatric Association recommends regular screenings for tardive dyskinesia for patients taking dopamine receptor blocking agents; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature supports raising awareness of tardive dyskinesia in the public and medical community;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature designates May 1 - 7, 2022, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week and encourages individuals in the state to become better informed about and aware of tardive dyskinesia.