

House Resolution 856

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Mathiak of the 73rd, Greene of the 151st, Lott of the 122nd, and Newton of the 123rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of May 1, 2022, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, many people with serious, chronic mental illness such as schizophrenia; bipolar
4 disorder; severe depression; or gastrointestinal disorders, including gastroparesis, nausea, and
5 vomiting, require treatment with medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents
6 (DRBAs), including anti-psychotics; and

7 WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with these medications can be very helpful and even
8 lifesaving for many people, it can also lead to tardive dyskinesia (TD); and

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

11 WHEREAS, TD can develop months, years, or decades after a person starts taking DRBAs
12 even after they have discontinued use of those medications. Not everyone who takes a DRBA
13 develops TD, but if it develops, it is often permanent; and

14 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 600,000 Americans suffer from TD. According to the
15 National Alliance for Mental Illness, one in every four patients receiving long-term treatment
16 with an anti-psychotic medication will experience TD; and

17 WHEREAS, years of difficult and challenging research have resulted in recent scientific
18 breakthroughs, including the approval of two new treatments for TD by the United States
19 Food and Drug Administration; and

20 WHEREAS, TD is often unrecognized and patients suffering from the illness are commonly
21 misdiagnosed. Regular screening for TD in patients taking DRBAs is recommended by the
22 American Psychiatric Association (APA); and

23 WHEREAS, the Georgia House of Representatives can raise awareness of TD in the public
24 and medical community.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
26 the members of this body recognize the week of May 1, 2022, as Tardive Dyskinesia
27 Awareness Week and encourage all Georgians to become better informed about, and aware
28 of, tardive dyskinesia.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
31 public and the press.