

**No. R-329. House concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of public awareness of tardive dyskinesia.**

(H.C.R.250)

Offered by: Representative Bartley of Fairfax

Whereas, tardive dyskinesia (TD) “is a persistent, involuntary movement disorder...characterized by uncontrollable, abnormal and repetitive movements of the face, torso, limbs, and fingers or toes,” and

Whereas, 600,000 Americans are living with TD and nearly 65 percent of these individuals have not received a proper diagnosis, and symptoms of TD can impact individuals physically, socially, and emotionally, and

Whereas, the “prolonged use of antipsychotic medication that may be necessary to treat individuals living with mental illness[es],” such as bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, schizoaffective disorder, and schizophrenia, can, in some cases, result in TD, and

Whereas, individuals who are taking any of these medications and are 55 years of age or older, have a substance use disorder, or are postmenopausal are more susceptible to contracting TD, and

Whereas, this illness may affect an individual’s ability to sleep (64 percent); write or type, or both (48 percent); or eat or drink (37 percent), and

Whereas, in 2017, after extensive research, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Ingrezza (valbenazine) as the first drug to respond to TD, and

Whereas, medical authorities stress how important it is that health care providers who prescribe an antipsychotic medication monitor the patient for possible indications of TD, and

Whereas, nationally, the first full week of May—this year occurring from May 5–11—is observed as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week, and Governor Scott has recognized this important observance in the State of Vermont, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the importance of public awareness of tardive dyskinesia, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to BGR Senior Policy Analyst Ellen Brown in Washington, DC.