

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4, SENATE

SIXTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING  
2019 GENERAL SESSION

A JOINT RESOLUTION creating awareness of Tardive Dyskinesia and designating the first full week of May as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week.

WHEREAS, many people with serious, chronic mental illnesses including schizophrenia and other schizoaffective disorders, bipolar disorder or severe depression require treatment with medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents (DRBAs), including antipsychotics; and

WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with these medications can be helpful and lifesaving for many people it can also lead to Tardive Dyskinesia (TD); and

WHEREAS, many people who have gastrointestinal disorders including gastroparesis, nausea and vomiting also require treatment with DRBAs; and

WHEREAS, treatment of gastrointestinal disorders with DRBAs can be helpful but can also lead to 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, in some cases, people with TD may experience involuntary and uncontrolled movement of the arms, legs, fingers, toes, tongue, lips, jaw, swaying movements of the trunk or hips or impacts to the muscles associated with walking, speech, eating and breathing; and

WHEREAS, TD can develop months, years or decades after a person starts taking DRBAs and even after they have discontinued use of those medications; and

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

WHEREAS, common risk factors for TD include advanced age, alcoholism, substance abuse disorders, postmenopausal women and people with a mood disorder; and

WHEREAS, a person is at higher risk for TD the longer the person is on DRBAs; and

WHEREAS, studies suggest that the overall risk of developing TD following prolonged exposure to DRBAs is nearly thirty percent (30%); and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over five hundred thousand (500,000) individuals in the United States suffer from TD; and

WHEREAS, years of challenging research have resulted in scientific breakthroughs in the last year, with two (2) 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. Regular screening for TD in patients taking DRBA medications is recommended by the American Psychiatric Association (APA); and

WHEREAS, a patient taking a DRBA should see his or her healthcare provider for regular evaluations to ensure that any signs of TD are recognized. Healthcare providers should use a rating scale recommended by the APA; and

WHEREAS, patients suffering from TD often suffer embarrassment due to abnormal and involuntary movements,

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which leads them to withdraw from society and increasingly isolate themselves as the disease progresses; and

WHEREAS, the caregivers of patients with TD face many challenges and are often responsible for the overall care of the TD patient.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

**Section 1.** The Wyoming Legislature proclaims the first full week of May as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week to raise awareness of this potentially debilitating disease, and to encourage individuals not afflicted with TD to consider the effects of TD on individuals and society and to encourage Wyomingites to contribute to charities supporting TD research and awareness.

ORIGINAL SENATE  
JOINT RESOLUTION. SJ0006

ENGROSSED

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**Section 2.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the National Organization for Rare Diseases, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the American Academy of Neurology, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, the Wyoming Medical Society and the Wyoming Congressional Delegation.

(END)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

TIME APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk