

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MAY 7-13, 2023 AS
TARDIVE DYSKINESIA AWARENESS WEEK**

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

WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with these medications can be very helpful, and even lifesaving, for many people, it can also 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, tardive dyskinesia can develop months, years or decades after a person starts taking DRBAs and even after they have discontinued use of those medications. Not everyone who takes a DRBA develops tardive dyskinesia, but if it develops it is often permanent; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 600,000 Americans suffer from tardive dyskinesia, and, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, one in every 4 patients receiving long-term treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience tardive dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia is often unrecognized and patients suffering from the disorder are commonly misdiagnosed, and regular screening for tardive dyskinesia in patients taking DRBAs is therefore recommended by the American Psychiatric Association; and

WHEREAS, while years of difficult and challenging research have resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs regarding tardive dyskinesia, it is important to continue to raise awareness of tardive dyskinesia in the public and the medical community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate May 7-13, 2023 as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week and respectfully encourage each individual in the State to become aware of and better informed about tardive dyskinesia.