

1 A RESOLUTION declaring the week of May 2 to 8, 2021, to be Tardive Dyskinesia
2 Awareness Week.

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

7 WHEREAS, although ongoing treatment with these medications can be helpful and
8 even lifesaving, for many people, it can also lead to Tardive Dyskinesia; and

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

12 WHEREAS, Tardive Dyskinesia can develop months, years, or decades after a
13 person starts taking DRBAs and even after discontinuing use of those medications. Not
14 everyone who takes a DRBA develops Tardive Dyskinesia, but if it develops, it is often
15 permanent; and

16 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 500,000 Americans suffer from Tardive
17 Dyskinesia. According to the National Alliance for Mental Illness, one in every four
18 patients receiving long-term treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience
19 Tardive Dyskinesia; and

20 WHEREAS, years of difficult and challenging research have resulted in recent
21 scientific breakthroughs, with two new treatments for Tardive Dyskinesia, approved by
22 the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

23 WHEREAS, Tardive Dyskinesia is often unrecognized and patients suffering from
24 the illness are commonly misdiagnosed. Regular screening for Tardive Dyskinesia in
25 patients taking DRBA medications is recommended by the American Psychiatric
26 Association; and

27 WHEREAS, by declaring Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week, the House of

1 Representatives can raise awareness of Tardive Dyskinesia in the public and in the
2 medical community;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

4 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
5 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

6 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives does hereby designate the week of
7 May 2 to 8, 2021, to be Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week.

8 ➔Section 2. The House of Representatives encourages each individual in the
9 United States to be better informed and aware of Tardive Dyskinesia.