



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

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

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 500,000 Americans suffer from Tardive Dyskinesia;

WHEREAS, according to the National Alliance for Mental Illness, one in every four patients receiving long-term treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience Tardive Dyskinesia; and

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

WHEREAS, Tardive Dyskinesia is often unrecognized, and patients suffering from the illness are commonly misdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, regular screening for TD in patients taking DRBA medications is recommended by the American Psychiatric Association (APA);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim May 1st through 8th, 2022, as

Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 4th day of February 2022.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor