



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *Tardive Dyskinesia (TD) is a persistent, irreversible, and potentially disabling neurological condition characterized by uncontrollable repetitive movements of the face, torso, or other body parts; and*

WHEREAS, *TD is an involuntary movement disorder caused by medications that help control dopamine, such as antipsychotics prescribed to treat people living with mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression; and*

WHEREAS, *clinical research by the United States Food and Drug Administration has led to the availability of two treatments for adults with TD; and*

WHEREAS, *many people with serious mental health conditions, such as bipolar disorder, major depression, schizophrenia, and schizoaffective disorder, or gastrointestinal disorders, including gastroparesis, nausea, and vomiting, may be treated with medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents (DRBAs); and*

WHEREAS, *while prolonged treatment with these medications are often necessary to treat various illnesses that a person is experiencing, ongoing use of DRBAs can lead to the onset of TD; and*

WHEREAS, *it is important that people taking DRBAs are monitored for TD through regular screenings as recommended by the American Psychiatric Association; and*

WHEREAS, *it is estimated that TD affects approximately 600,000 people in the U.S. and approximately 70% of people with TD have not been diagnosed; and*

WHEREAS, *TD is treatable if a patient receives timely screening and diagnosis; and*

WHEREAS, *TD remains widely unknown and misunderstood due to a lack of public awareness and limited resources available to patients, providers, and caregivers; and*

WHEREAS, *it is estimated that about 1.1 million adults in New Jersey, or 16.14% of adults in the State, are living with a mental illness and as a result are likely to receive DRBAs as a form of treatment which can lead to the onset of TD; and*

WHEREAS, *raising awareness about the symptoms and impact of TD will promote the importance of early screening, diagnosis and treatment and ensure that people living with TD receive the care they need, increased awareness is necessary at the State and federal level; and*

WHEREAS, *people living with TD face physical, social and emotional barriers due to the stigma associated with uncontrollable movements which can further lead to worsened mental health symptoms and cause embarrassment or withdrawal from society; and*

WHEREAS, *a Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week would provide New Jerseyans with an annual reminder to check themselves for symptoms of the disorder and seek early medical intervention through annual screenings with their medical provider;*

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

MAY 4 THROUGH MAY 10, 2025

AS

TARDIVE DYSKINESIA AWARENESS WEEK

in New Jersey.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this sixteenth day in April in the year two thousand twenty-five, the two hundred forty-ninth year of the Independence of the United States.

LI. GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR