



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, many people with serious, chronic mental illness, such as 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 very helpful, and even lifesaving, for many people, it can also lead to Tardive Dyskinesia (TD); and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 500,000 Americans suffer from Tardive Dyskinesia, and one in every four patients receiving long-term treatment with antipsychotic medication may experience Tardive Dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS, years of difficult and challenging research have resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs, with two new treatments for TD 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;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim May 1 through May 7, 2022, as

Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this third day of May 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Lee".

Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Hargett".

Secretary of State

