

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

- WHEREAS,** many peoples 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 (TD); 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 TD, but if it develops it is often permanent; and
- WHEREAS,** it is estimated that over 500,000 Americans suffer from Tardive Dyskinesia. 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. Regular screening for Tardive Dyskinesia in patients taking DRBA medications is recommended by the American Psychiatric Association.

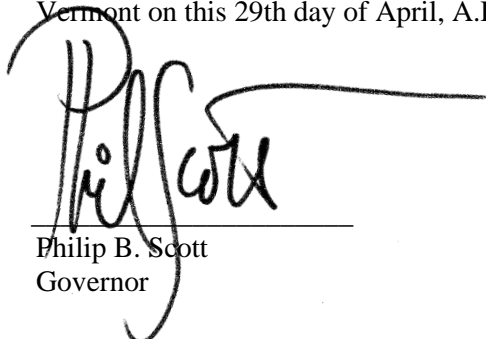
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim May 1-8, 2022 as


TARDIVE DYSKINESIA AWARENESS WEEK

in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of
Vermont on this 29th day of April, A.D. 2022.


Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs