

House Resolution 560

By: Representative Cooper of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the week of May 2, 2021, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week; and for
2 other purposes.

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

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

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

11 WHEREAS, TD can develop months, years, or decades after a person starts taking DRBAs
12 and even after they have discontinued use of those medications; not everyone who takes a
13 DRBA develops TD, but if it develops it is often permanent; and

14 WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 500,000 Americans suffer from TD, and according to
15 the National Alliance for Mental Illness, one in every four patients receiving long-term
16 treatment with an antipsychotic medication will experience TD; and

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

20 WHEREAS, TD is often unrecognized, and patients suffering from the illness are commonly
21 misdiagnosed, so regular screening for TD in patients taking DRBA medications is
22 recommended by the American Psychiatric Association (APA); and

23 WHEREAS, it is important to raise awareness of TD in the public and medical community.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 the members of this body recognize the week of May 2, 2021, as Tardive Dyskinesia
26 Awareness Week and encourage each individual in the United States to become better
27 informed about and aware of Tardive Dyskinesia.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
29 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
30 public and the press.