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Chairman Burke, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and Members of the Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Senate Bill 76 to declare Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week in Ohio. I would also like to thank Senator Lehner for sponsoring this important measure.

Tardive dyskinesia, also known as TD, is a movement disorder characterized by uncontrollable, abnormal, repetitive movements of the torso, extremities and/or face. It is a series of uncontrollable movements in the body and is often seen in the lips, jaw, tongue, and eyes. It can also affect other parts of the body, including the upper body, arms, hands, legs, and feet.

Even though TD can look or feel different from day to day, the symptoms may be persistent and often are irreversible. TD may appear to be rapid and jerky, or slow in a repetitive, continuous, or random pattern. Imagine a patient who is struggling to control their mental health and then is faced with uncontrollable movements, including:

- Lip smacking, puckering or pursing
- Tongue darting or protrusion
- Excessive blinking
- Jaw swinging, chewing or grimacing
- Twisting or dancing fingers and toes
- Torso and hip rocking, jerking or thrusting

Tardive Dyskinesia is a condition that affects at least 500,000 people in the United States, including an estimated 15,000 - 20,000 people in Ohio. The uncontrollable movements of TD may be disruptive to people's lives due to the symptoms themselves and the impact they have on emotional and social well-being. The condition is associated with taking certain kinds of important medications, such as antipsychotics, that help control dopamine in the brain. These medications are commonly prescribed to treat schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and depression. Other medications used to treat upset stomach, nausea, and vomiting may also cause TD.

These involuntary movements associated with TD can impact patients socially, physically and emotionally, making them feel embarrassed or judged by others and, in some cases, lead them to withdraw from society and isolate themselves from the outside world. Despite the number of people impacted by the condition, TD remains largely

unknown. However, for patients living with TD, their families and their caregivers, it is important to know that they are not alone.

In 2018, California was the first state to declare Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week, which passed with broad bipartisan support. In 2019, there were 27 states and the District of Columbia that have declared Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week during the first full week of May. The month of May is traditionally Mental Health Month and because TD impacts those living with mental health conditions so significantly, it is fitting and appropriate to similarly raise awareness of TD in the broader context of mental health.

In closing, I'd also mention this bill has no mandate and no fiscal impact on the state budget. It does, however, raise awareness of TD which is critical to getting patients the care they need. We thank you in advance for your consideration of raising awareness for those individuals living with mental illness and movement disorders.

Again, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I thank you for your consideration of this written testimony and humbly ask for your support of Senate Bill 76.

Submitted by:
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