

March 20, 2019



Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chairman  
House Committee on Health  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 402  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Mizuno:

Neurocrine Biosciences is a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing treatments for neurological and endocrine related disorders. Our company discovered, developed and markets the first FDA-approved product indicated for the treatment of adults living with Tardive Dyskinesia. Neurocrine is proud to lend its name to the list of supporters for HR 58, declaring Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week in May 2019.

Tardive Dyskinesia, also known as TD, 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. TD can look or feel different from day to day and movements may appear to be rapid and jerky, or slow and writhing in a repetitive, continuous, or random pattern.

Tardive Dyskinesia is a condition that affects at least 500,000 people in the United States. The uncontrollable movements of TD may be disruptive to people's lives due to the symptoms themselves and the impact that have on emotion 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. Other medications used to treat upset stomach, nausea, and vomiting may also cause TD.

The proposed legislation is a good faith effort to raise visibility of a condition that remains largely unknown by the general population. California was the first state to declare Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week in 2018 and we anticipate over 20 states will make similar declarations in the weeks ahead. The month of May is traditionally Mental Health Awareness Month and because TD impacts those living with mental health conditions so significantly, we believe it is fitting and appropriate to similarly raise awareness of TD in the broader context of mental health. It is important to also note this legislation has no mandate and no fiscal impact on the state budget.

Neurocrine is proud to join national and state advocacy leaders in supporting this legislation and encouraging you to support its passage. We thank you in advance for your consideration of raising awareness for those individuals living with mental illness and movement disorders.

Sincerely,

Darin Lippoldt  
Chief Legal Officer