

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR ELVI GRAY-JACKSON  
SENATE DISTRICT G

## **Sponsor Statement: Senate Concurrent Resolution 4**

### **Mental Health Month; Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4 recognizes the urgent need to bring awareness to the mental health crisis affecting thousands of Alaskans and their families. By designating May 2025 as Mental Health Awareness Month and May 4–10, 2025, as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week, this resolution seeks to promote understanding, reduce stigma, and support those affected by mental illness and related conditions.

In Alaska, more than 108,000 adults are living with mental health conditions such as depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. Among our youth, more than 8,000 experience depression—yet the majority are not receiving the care they need. Our state also faces an alarming suicide rate, ranking second in the nation per capita. These statistics underscore the urgent need for public awareness, early intervention, and accessible mental health services.

Mental illness does not discriminate. It touches every community, regardless of age, race, or background. Moreover, conditions like tardive dyskinesia—often a side effect of long-term antipsychotic treatment—affect hundreds of thousands nationwide yet remain underdiagnosed and misunderstood.

Through this resolution, we aim to shine a light on these critical issues and foster a culture of compassion, education, and proactive care. Let us come together to build a mental health system that supports healing, dignity, and hope for all Alaskans.