

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize the month of June 2017 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

WHEREAS, all people have a right to the preservation of their personal dignity; and

WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States deserve the investment of resources to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who proudly serve this great nation risk their lives to protect our freedom; and

WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as post-traumatic stress disorder was first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 in order to commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress; and

WHEREAS, combat stress has historically been viewed incorrectly as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw of character or ability, and the word "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) can occur as a result of severely traumatic events including, without limitation, sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat; and

WHEREAS, PTSI is a common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable; and

WHEREAS, referring to the complications from post-traumatic stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, destigmatizing PTSD and honoring the bravery of persons recovering from this injury can favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution or shame; and

WHEREAS, proper and timely treatment can improve health outcomes and diminish rates of suicide among people with PTSD; and

WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSD deserve our compassion and consideration, and those who have received their wounds in action against an enemy of the United States further deserve our tribute and recognition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the month of June 2017 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge the Louisiana Department of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase efforts to educate survivors of abuse, crime, and natural disaster; service members; veterans and their families; and the general public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor of Louisiana, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE