

HOUSE No. 1701

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Paul Brodeur

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve establishing a special commission on post traumatic stress disorder.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Paul Brodeur

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

32nd Middlesex

HOUSE No. 1701

By Mr. Brodeur of Melrose, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 1701) of Paul Brodeur for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to post traumatic stress disorder. Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-First General Court
(2019-2020)**

Resolve establishing a special commission on post traumatic stress disorder.

1 **Resolved**, there shall be a special commission established pursuant to section 2A of
2 chapter 4 of the General Laws which shall make an investigation and study of post traumatic
3 stress and make recommendations to enhance services, policies, and programs in the
4 commonwealth where appropriate and necessary. The commission shall have a particular focus
5 on how the diagnosis and treatment of post traumatic stress injuries affects access to health
6 insurance, retirement benefits, and disability benefits. The commission will recommend
7 legislation as required to implement said recommendations. The commission shall assess the
8 policies, funding, and programming needed to address the needs of those affected by post-
9 traumatic stress. The commission shall evaluate statutes, regulations, and policies related to
10 access to insurance coverage, retirement benefits, and disability benefits, including but not
11 limited to notice and other claims provisions. The commission shall identify any impediments to
12 access to programs and benefits and propose solutions to address any impediments identified by
13 the commission. The commission, in formulating its recommendations, shall take account of the
14 best policies and practices in other states and jurisdictions. The commission shall be empowered

15 to hold regular public meetings, fact-finding hearings and other public forums as it considers
16 necessary. The special commission shall consist of the House chair of the committee on public
17 service or her designee who shall serve as co-chair of the commission; the Senate chair of the
18 committee on public service or her designee who shall serve as co-chair of the commission; the
19 secretary of veterans services or his designee; the commissioner of public health or her designee;
20 the executive director of the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission or his
21 designee; the executive director of the Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and
22 Health; and 3 members appointed by the governor, of whom one shall be a member of a public
23 employees union, and one of whom shall have clinical expertise in identifying and treating post-
24 traumatic stress injuries; two members of the Massachusetts bar each of whom shall have
25 expertise in insurance, public employee benefits law, or other relevant areas germane to the
26 charge of this commission.