

2017 -- H 5454

LC001348

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING JUNE 27 TO BE POST - TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS DAY IN RHODE ISLAND AND THE MONTH OF JUNE TO BE POST - TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH IN RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives McNamara, Vella-Wilkinson, McLaughlin, Azzinaro, and Abney

Date Introduced: February 09, 2017

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, All citizens of the United States possess the basic human right to the  
2 preservation of personal dignity; and

3 WHEREAS, All citizens of the United States deserve the investment of every possible  
4 resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

5 WHEREAS, The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who proudly  
6 serve the United States risk their lives to protect our freedom; and

7 WHEREAS, The diagnosis, now known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), was  
8 first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980, to commonly and more accurately  
9 understand and treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress; and

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

13 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) can occur after experiencing a severely  
14 traumatic event and may include, but is not limited to, sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact  
15 collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat; and

16 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) is a very common injury to the brain that  
17 is treatable and repairable; and

18 WHEREAS, Referring to the complications from post-traumatic stress as a disorder  
19 perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the

1 injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

2 WHEREAS, Making post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) less stigmatizing and more  
3 honorable can favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of  
4 retribution or shame; and

5 WHEREAS, Proper and timely treatment of post-traumatic stress injury can diminish  
6 suicide rates; and

7 WHEREAS, All citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve our  
8 compassion and consideration. Those who have received these wounds in action against an  
9 enemy of the United States further deserve our tribute and acknowledgement; and

10 WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Department of Health and Office of Veterans Affairs  
11 must continue working to educate victims of abuse, crime and natural disasters, service members,  
12 veterans and their families, as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms, and  
13 treatment of post-traumatic stress injury; now, therefore be it;

14 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
15 Providence Plantations hereby designates June 27 to be Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness  
16 Day in Rhode Island, and designates the Month of June to be Post-Traumatic Stress Injury  
17 Awareness Month; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
19 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of  
20 Rhode Island, Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Director, Rhode Department of Health, and  
21 Kasim Yarn, Director, Rhode Island Office of Veterans Affairs.

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