

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 687

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION relative to post-traumatic stress injury.

WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess the basic human right to preserve personal dignity; and

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

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

WHEREAS, historically, combat stress injuries have been unjustly portrayed as mental illness caused by a preexisting flaw of character or ability; further, the word "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception, and such stigma can discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, referring to the complications from combat operational stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness; and

WHEREAS, electro-magnetic imaging has demonstrated that this condition is more accurately described as an injury; and

WHEREAS, severe post-traumatic stress is a very common, and treatable, injury to the brain that can occur following exposure to extremely traumatic events such as, but not exclusive to, interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, referring to the condition as post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) is less stigmatizing and creates a more sympathetic perception among the general public, and this

designation can favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek treatment without fear of retribution or shame; and

WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve our compassion and consideration; those brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who received these injuries in action against an enemy of the United States further deserve our special tribute and acknowledgement; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) is an injury that is repairable, and timely treatment can diminish complications and prevent suicides among the injured; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this General Assembly designates June 27, 2018, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and June 2018 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Assembly respectfully urges the Department of Health, the Department of Military, and the Department of Veterans Services to continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, and natural disasters and their families, as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Health, the Adjutant General, and the Commissioner of Veterans Services.