



2021 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 67

July 1, 2021 - Introduced by Representatives HORLACHER, ARMSTRONG, BEHNKE, BROSTOFF, CABRAL-GUEVARA, CABRERA, EMERSON, GUNDRUM, ROZAR, SPIROS, SPREITZER, SUBECK and SINICKI, cosponsored by Senators JACQUE, BALLWEG, BEWLEY, L. TAYLOR and WANGGAARD. Referred to Committee on Rules.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **Relating to:** recognizing June 27 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day
2 and June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

3 Whereas, all citizens possess the basic human right to the preservation of
4 personal dignity; and

5 Whereas, all citizens deserve the investment of every possible resource to
6 ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

7 Whereas, post-traumatic stress can result from any number of stressors that
8 include combat, interpersonal violence, severe impact collisions, natural disaster,
9 and exposure to the suffering of others; and

10 Whereas, the diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was
11 formulated in 1980 by the American Psychiatric Association to describe and
12 categorize the psychological aftermath of severe traumatic distress; and

13 Whereas, post-traumatic stress has historically been portrayed unjustly as a
14 mental illness caused by a preexisting flaw of character or ability, and association

1 with the word “disorder” generates a stigma which perpetuates this misconception;
2 and

3 Whereas, electro-magnetic imaging has shown that severe post-traumatic
4 stress causes physical changes within the brain that are more accurately described
5 as an injury than a disorder; and

6 Whereas, referring to post-traumatic stress as a disorder can disparage the
7 injured and discourage them from seeking timely care for their behavioral health
8 needs; and

9 Whereas, post-traumatic stress injury exhibiting compliance with criteria B
10 through H of § 309.81 in the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic
11 Statistical Manual deserves compensation strictly matching that presently allowed
12 under the law for post-traumatic stress disorder; and

13 Whereas, all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve our
14 compassion and consideration, especially the brave men and women who received
15 these wounds while risking their lives to protect our freedom, health, and welfare
16 and who deserve special recognition of their gallantry, commitment, devotion, and
17 sacrifice; and

18 Whereas, timely access to appropriate treatment of post-traumatic stress
19 injury can diminish complications and prevent suicide; now, therefore, be it

20 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the Wisconsin
21 State Legislature designates June 27 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness
22 Day, designates June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month, and
23 encourages all Wisconsinites to join in this worthy observance; and, be it further

24 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin State Legislature respectfully urges the
25 Department of Health Services and Department of Veterans Affairs to continue to

1 educate victims of interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, or
2 natural disasters, as well as their families and the general public, about the causes,
3 symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury; and, be it further

4 ***Resolved, That*** the Wisconsin State Legislature directs that this resolution be
5 transmitted to the governor and encourages the governor to issue a proclamation to
6 the same effect as this resolution.

7 (END)