

1 SJR143
2 189841-1
3 By Senator Dial
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 27-MAR-18

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8 RECOGNIZING POST TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS.

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10 WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess
11 the basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity;
12 and

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

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

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

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

4 WHEREAS, than rather characterize the condition as a
5 disorder, it has been shown through electro-magnetic imaging
6 that the condition is more accurately described as an injury;
7 and

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

13 WHEREAS, referring to the condition as
14 post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) is less stigmatizing and
15 viewed as more honorable, and this designation can favorably
16 influence those affected and encourage them to seek treatment
17 without fear of retribution or shame; and

18 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve
19 our compassion and consideration; those brave men and women of
20 the United States Armed Forces who have received these wounds
21 in action against an enemy of the United States further
22 deserve our special tribute and acknowledgement; and

23 WHEREAS, PTSI is an injury that is repairable and
24 timely treatment can diminish complications and prevent
25 suicides among the injured; now therefore,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
27 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we do hereby designate June 27

1 of each year as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and
2 June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we respectfully urge
4 our Department of Public Health and the Department of Veterans
5 Affairs to continue working to educate victims of
6 interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, or
7 natural disasters and their families, as well as the general
8 public, about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of
9 post-traumatic stress injury.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we direct that a copy
11 of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the
12 Department of Public Health, and the Department of Veterans
13 Affairs as an expression of the sentiment of the Alabama
14 Legislature.