

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 331

Introduced by Brewer, 43; Gragert, 40; McDonnell, 5; Walz, 15.

WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as post-traumatic stress disorder was initially formulated in 1980 by the American Psychiatric Association to more accurately assess and assist veterans who had endured severe combat stress in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, combat stress is an invisible wound that has historically been unjustly portrayed as a mental illness caused by a preexisting flaw of character or ability, and that the word "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

WHEREAS, electromagnetic brain imaging now shows previously invisible wounds, physical changes to the brain more accurately described as an injury than as a disorder; and

WHEREAS, referring to invisible wounds as a disorder can discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, referring to such wounds as post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) is less stigmatizing and viewed as more honorable, influencing those affected to seek treatment without fear of retribution or shame; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury can occur following exposure to extremely traumatic events other than combat, such as, but not exclusive to, interpersonal violence, life-threatening accidents, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve compassion and consideration, and those brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have endured these wounds in operational action especially deserve our respect and recognition; and

WHEREAS, timely and appropriate treatment of post-traumatic stress injury can diminish complications, avert further victimization, and reduce the number of related suicides.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes June 2020 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month in Nebraska, and June 27, 2020, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in Nebraska.

2. That the Legislature encourages the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Veterans' Affairs to continue working to educate victims and their families, as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.