

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 69

Introduced by Walz, 15.

WHEREAS, all individuals possess the basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity; and

WHEREAS, all individuals deserve the investment of every possible resource to maintain their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress can result from any number of stressors including combat, interpersonal violence, severe impact collisions, natural disasters, and exposure to the suffering of others; and

WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder was initially formulated in 1980 by the American Psychiatric Association to commonly describe and categorize the psychological aftermath of severe traumatic distress; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress has historically been unjustly portrayed as a mental illness caused by a preexisting flaw of character or ability, and association with the term "disorder" generates a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

WHEREAS, electro-magnetic imaging now shows that severe post-traumatic stress causes physical changes within the brain which are more accurately described as an injury than a disorder; and

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

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury that is consistent with the description of post-traumatic stress disorder in section 309.81 criteria A through H of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders deserves equal compensation strictly matching that currently allowed under the law for

post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, all individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve our compassion and consideration and the brave men and women who received these wounds while risking their lives to protect our freedom, health, and welfare deserve special recognition of their gallantry, commitment, devotion, and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, timely access to appropriate treatment of post-traumatic stress injury can diminish complications and prevent suicide.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes June 2023 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and June 27, 2023, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in Nebraska.

2. That the Legislature encourages the Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs to continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, and natural disasters, their families, and the general public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.