

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 371

House concurrent resolution designating Wednesday, June 27, 2018 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day

Offered by: Representatives Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Dunn of Essex, Haas of Rochester, Houghton of Essex, Jickling of Randolph, McFaun of Barre Town, Mrowicki of Putney, Pajala of Londonderry, Pugh of South Burlington, Rosenquist of Georgia, Troiano of Stannard, and Wood of Waterbury

Whereas, in 1980, the American Psychiatric Association created the term Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to describe the severe combat stress that Vietnam veterans were experiencing, and

Whereas, since 1980, technological advances in electromagnetic imaging have documented that severe post-traumatic stress can cause physical changes within a person's brain, and

Whereas, it is more accurate to describe these physical changes as an injury rather than a disorder or, in other words, as a wound and not a weakness, and

Whereas, the word "disorder" conveys a negative image that can discourage some individuals from seeking treatment and others from caring about those who are injured, and

Whereas, equally important, the use of the term "disorder" in relation to combat stress assails the sense of honor that should be associated with any member of the U.S. Armed Forces injured in combat, and

Whereas, beyond those injured in military combat, using the term is demeaning to first responders, abuse and crime victims, witnesses and survivors of life-threatening accidents and natural disasters, and their family members, and

Whereas, the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fifth Edition, distinguishes between common post-traumatic stress, resulting in a traumatized but uninjured brain, and the more debilitating and longer-lasting form of stress that does involve a brain injury, and

Whereas, an alternative description for the more debilitating form of post-traumatic stress is Post-Traumatic Stress Injury (PTSI), and

Whereas, the term PTSI preserves the medical distinction between the short and long-term types of post-traumatic stress while removing the unjustified stigma associated with the term disorder, and

Whereas, the Honor for ALL organization, with the support of the National Guard and mental health advocacy and veterans groups, is working to encourage a national awareness of the extreme importance of replacing the term PTSD with PTSI for describing post-traumatic stress resulting in a brain injury, and in 2017, 34 states and the U.S. House of Representatives acknowledged the importance of this effort, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates Wednesday, June 27, 2018 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Honor for ALL organization in Royal Oak, Michigan.