

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 49

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAGLEY AND SENATORS BERNARD AND MILLIGAN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize June 2020 as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and to recognize Saturday, June 27, 2020, as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, all people have a right to the preservation of their personal dignity; and

WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States deserve the investment of resources to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as post-traumatic stress disorder was first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 in order to more accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe, traumatic combat stress; and

WHEREAS, combat stress has historically been viewed incorrectly as a mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw of character or ability, and the word disorder carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

WHEREAS, referring to the complications from post-traumatic stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, through the use of electro-magnetic imaging, the medical field has demonstrated that the condition of post-traumatic stress is more accurately described as an injury; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) is a common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable; and

WHEREAS, PTSD can occur as a result of severely traumatic events including, without limitation, interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, destigmatizing PTSD and honoring the bravery of persons recovering from this injury can favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution or shame; and

WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSD deserve our compassion and consideration, and those who have received their wounds in action against an enemy of the United States further deserve our tribute and recognition; and

WHEREAS, proper and timely treatment can improve health outcomes and diminish rates of suicide among people with PTSD.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the month of June 2020 as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and does hereby recognize Saturday, June 27, 2020, as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge the Louisiana Department of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase efforts to educate survivors of interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, and natural disasters, veterans and their families, and the general public about the causes, symptoms, and treatments of post-traumatic stress injury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the governor of Louisiana and the secretary of state.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE