

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

JOINT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING JUNE 27, 2022 AS POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS DAY AND JUNE AS POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, all citizens possess the basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity and deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure 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, or PTSD, was initially formulated in 1980 by the American Psychiatric Association to 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 in character or ability, and the term "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

WHEREAS, it has been shown through electromagnetic imaging that severe post-traumatic stress causes physical changes within the brain that are more accurately described as an injury than as a disorder; and

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

WHEREAS, timely and appropriate treatment of post-traumatic stress injury can diminish complications and prevent suicides; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury that meets the criteria for a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders deserves disability compensation equal to that allowed for PTSD under the law; and

WHEREAS, while all citizens suffering post-traumatic stress injuries deserve our compassion and consideration, those brave members of the United States Armed Forces who have received these injuries while risking their lives to protect our freedom, health and welfare deserve special recognition for their gallantry, commitment, devotion and sacrifice; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate June 27, 2022 as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and June as Post-traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and respectfully urge the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence, combat, life-

threatening accidents or natural disasters and their families, as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.