

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOFFMANN

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes the month of June 2017 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the month of June 2017 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

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

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

6 WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who  
7 proudly serve this great nation risk their lives to protect our freedom; and

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

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

14 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) can occur as a result of severely  
15 traumatic events including, without limitation, sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact  
16 collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat; and

17 WHEREAS, PTSI is a common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable;  
18 and

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

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

4 WHEREAS, proper and timely treatment can improve health outcomes and diminish  
5 rates of suicide among people with PTSI; and

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

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
10 recognize the month of June 2017 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature does hereby urge the Louisiana  
12 Department of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase efforts to educate  
13 survivors of abuse, crime, and natural disaster; service members; veterans and their families;  
14 and the general public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress  
15 injury.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
17 governor of Louisiana, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, and the  
18 secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HCR 16 Original

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Recognizes the month of June 2017 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month and urges the La. Department of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase educational efforts concerning post-traumatic stress injury.