
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 373 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY FABRIZIO, BAKER, TOOIL, DIGIROLAMO, DeLUCA,
HENNESSEY, WATSON, R. BROWN, DUSH, DAVIS, SONNEY, FREEMAN,
WARD, LONGIETTI, READSHAW, SCHWEYER, BOBACK, SCHLOSSBERG,
BULLOCK, MILLARD, ROEBUCK, BIZZARRO, GOODMAN, DEASY,
V. BROWN, STURLA, FITZGERALD, ROZZI, EVERETT, MURT, KORTZ,
NEILSON, PYLE, FARRY, PASHINSKI, SAYLOR AND GILLEN,
JUNE 5, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
JUNE 5, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2017 as "Post-Traumatic Stress
2 Disorder Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD is a
4 psychiatric disorder that is often misunderstood, and the
5 prevalence of PTSD is frequently underestimated; and

6 WHEREAS, PTSD is an anxiety disorder that can develop after
7 exposure to a terrifying event or ordeal in which there is a
8 potential for or actual occurrence of grave physical harm; and

9 WHEREAS, Traumatic events that may trigger PTSD include
10 violent personal assaults, natural or human-caused disasters,
11 accidents and military combat; and

12 WHEREAS, PTSD affects nearly 7.7 million Americans, and
13 approximately 20% of veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan
14 suffer from PTSD, two-thirds of whom do not seek treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, The brave men and women of the United States Armed

1 Forces, who proudly serve their country, risk their lives to
2 protect the freedom of the United States and deserve the
3 investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting
4 physical, mental and emotional well-being; and

5 WHEREAS, More than 2 million service members have deployed
6 overseas as part of overseas contingency operations since the
7 events of September 11, 2001; and

8 WHEREAS, The military has sustained an operational tempo for
9 a period of time unprecedented in the history of the United
10 States, with many service members deploying multiple times to
11 combat zones, placing them at high risk for PTSD; and

12 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs
13 reports that, since October 2001, more than 390,000 of the
14 approximately 1,160,000 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom,
15 Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn who have used
16 Department of Veterans Affairs health care have been coded for
17 PTSD; and

18 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
19 Veterans Affairs, in fiscal year 2015, more than 569,000 of the
20 nearly 6 million veterans from all wars who sought care at a
21 Department of Veterans Affairs medical center received treatment
22 for PTSD; and

23 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs
24 reports that of veterans who served in Operation Enduring
25 Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn who are
26 using Department of Veterans Affairs health care, more than
27 615,000 have received a diagnosis for at least one mental health
28 disorder; and

29 WHEREAS, Many cases of PTSD remain unreported, undiagnosed
30 and untreated due to a lack of awareness about PTSD and the

1 persistent stigma associated with mental health conditions; and
2 WHEREAS, Symptoms of PTSD vary from person to person and can
3 affect individuals differently; and

4 WHEREAS, Some common symptoms include upsetting memories,
5 anger, irritability, emotional numbness and nightmares; and

6 WHEREAS, PTSD significantly increases the risk of depression,
7 suicide and drug-related and alcohol-related disorders and
8 deaths, especially if left untreated; and

9 WHEREAS, Families of individuals who have PTSD experience
10 more unhappiness, marital strife, anxiety and childhood and
11 adolescent behavioral problems than families that do not have to
12 cope with this disorder; and

13 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense and the
14 United States Department of Veterans Affairs have made
15 significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment
16 of PTSD and the symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The National Center for Posttraumatic Stress
19 Disorder within the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
20 aims to advance the clinical care and social welfare of United
21 States veterans through research, education and training on PTSD
22 and stress-related disorders and provides educational resources
23 for veterans and also for health care providers, researchers and
24 the general public through its Internet website; and

25 WHEREAS, The National Center for Posttraumatic Stress
26 Disorder has designated the month of June as "PTSD Awareness
27 Month"; and

28 WHEREAS, In order to bring greater awareness to the issue of
29 PTSD, the United States Senate designated June 27 as "National
30 PTSD Awareness Day"; and

1 WHEREAS, The designation of "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania raises public awareness about
3 issues related to PTSD, reduces the stigma associated with PTSD
4 and helps to ensure that those suffering from this disorder
5 receive proper treatment; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
7 month of June 2017 as "Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness
8 Month" in Pennsylvania and support the efforts of many
9 organizations to educate the public about the causes, symptoms
10 and treatment of PTSD.