
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 336 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY SCHLOSSBERG, BERNSTINE, CALTAGIRONE, CIRESI,
DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, HARKINS,
KENYATTA, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MADDEN, MALAGARI,
MARKOSEK, McCLINTON, McNEILL, MERSKI, MILLARD, O'MARA,
PASHINSKI, READSHAW, SAINATO, SOLOMON, STURLA, ULLMAN, WARREN
AND YOUNGBLOOD, MAY 14, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MAY 14, 2019

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President of the United States and the Secretary of
2 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to
3 expeditiously address insufficient awareness of emergency
4 mental health care services offered to veterans with an
5 other-than-honorable administrative discharge.

6 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs
7 (VA) expanded emergency mental health care services to veterans
8 with an other-than-honorable discharge in July of 2017; and

9 WHEREAS, An other-than-honorable discharge is an
10 administrative discharge that excludes a punitive dishonorable,
11 bad conduct or undesirable discharge; and

12 WHEREAS, This policy expanded emergency mental health care
13 services to 500,000 veterans nationwide with an other-than-
14 honorable discharge for an initial period of 90 days for
15 inpatient and outpatient care; and

16 WHEREAS, Media reports from 2018 suggest that fewer than 200
17 eligible veterans with other-than-honorable discharges have

1 sought expanded emergency mental health care services offered by
2 the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

3 WHEREAS, The Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans
4 Benefits Administration will determine if veterans with an
5 other-than-honorable discharge are eligible for ongoing care
6 because of mental health conditions developed as a result of
7 their service; and

8 WHEREAS, There are approximately 840,000 veterans who reside
9 in this Commonwealth; and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately 11% to 20% of veterans who served in
11 Afghanistan or Iraq suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Veterans without access to services and health care
14 provided by the VA are 30% more likely than other veterans to
15 die by suicide; and

16 WHEREAS, Approximately 230 veterans in Pennsylvania die by
17 suicide each year; and

18 WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs must work to
19 fulfill its obligations to veterans who have developed mental
20 health conditions because of their service to this country;
21 therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly
23 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President of the
24 United States and the Secretary of the United States Department
25 of Veterans Affairs to take immediate action to expand efforts
26 to address the mental health needs of veterans with an other-
27 than-honorable administrative discharge; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
29 the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United
30 States Department of Veterans Affairs, the presiding officers of

- 1 each house of Congress and each member of Congress from
- 2 Pennsylvania.