
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 161 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, REGAN, J. WARD, HUGHES, DINNIMAN, FONTANA,
L. WILLIAMS, KEARNEY, BLAKE, IOVINO, BREWSTER, PHILLIPS-HILL,
BROWNE, SANTARSIERO, BAKER, VOGEL, KILLION, MARTIN,
HUTCHINSON, BARTOLOTTA, FOLMER, COSTA AND SCHWANK,
JUNE 12, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 12, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing June 27, 2019, as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury
2 Awareness Day" and the month of June 2019 as "Post-Traumatic
3 Stress Injury Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, The brave men and women of the United States Armed
5 Forces, who proudly serve this country and risk their lives to
6 protect our freedom, deserve the investment of every possible
7 resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental and emotional
8 well-being; and

9 WHEREAS, The challenges of serving in combat do not stop for
10 many veterans when they return home, but a new challenge begins
11 that many of our servicemen and servicewomen must fight every
12 day that causes them to struggle in silence; and

13 WHEREAS, The diagnosis now known as post-traumatic stress
14 disorder or PTSD was first defined in 1980 by the American
15 Psychiatric Association to more accurately understand and treat
16 veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress in
17 Vietnam; and

1 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress has historically been viewed
2 as a mental illness caused by a preexisting flaw in the
3 individual's brain or character and the term carries a stigma
4 that perpetuates this misconception; and

5 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress injury can occur after
6 exposure to extremely traumatic events including, but not
7 limited to, combat, sexual assault, torture, abuse, life-
8 threatening accidents, natural disasters or interpersonal
9 violence; and

10 WHEREAS, It has been shown through electro-magnetic imaging
11 that post-traumatic stress can cause physical changes to the
12 brain which are more consistent with an injury rather than a
13 disorder; and

14 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress is a very common injury to the
15 brain that is treatable and repairable; and

16 WHEREAS, Referring to post-traumatic stress injury as a
17 disorder not only perpetuates the stigma of and bias against
18 mental illness, but it also discourages those suffering from
19 post-traumatic stress from seeking proper and timely medical
20 treatment; and

21 WHEREAS, Destigmatizing the condition by referring to the
22 invisible wounds it causes in the brain as an injury rather than
23 a disorder is viewed as more honorable and can favorably
24 influence individuals affected and encourage them to seek help
25 without fear of retribution or shame; and

26 WHEREAS, Proper and timely treatment of post-traumatic stress
27 injuries can diminish complications and decrease suicide rates;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, All residents suffering from post-traumatic stress
30 injuries deserve our compassion and recognition; and

1 WHEREAS, Individuals who have received these wounds in
2 service to our nation further deserve our respect and special
3 honor; therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize June 27, 2019, as "Post-
5 Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" and the month of June
6 2019 as "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month" in
7 Pennsylvania; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate commend the Department of Health
9 and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs for working
10 to educate service members, veterans and their families, victims
11 of abuse, crime and natural disaster and the general public
12 about the causes, symptoms and treatment of post-traumatic
13 stress injury.