
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 103 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY RYAN, PENNYCUICK, HAMM, HILL-EVANS, JAMES, MOUL,
DAVANZO, STAATS, DELLOSO, DeLUCA, SCHLEGEL CULVER AND GUENST,
MAY 20, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, MAY 20, 2021

A RESOLUTION

1 Beseeching the Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 1656,
2 the Treatment and Relief through Emerging and Accessible
3 Therapy for PTSD Act.

4 WHEREAS, H.R. 1656 directs the United States Secretary of
5 Veterans Affairs and the United States Secretary of Defense to
6 furnish stellate ganglion block (SGB) therapy to veterans and
7 members of the Armed Forces of the United States with post-
8 traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

9 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Veterans Affairs
10 (VA) estimates that 23% of Operation Enduring Freedom and
11 Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans have received a diagnosis of
12 PTSD; and

13 WHEREAS, Older veterans are also impacted, with the VA
14 estimating that 12% of Gulf War veterans and 15% of Vietnam
15 veterans receive a PTSD diagnosis each year; and

16 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, only 40% of veterans find relief from
17 PTSD with current treatments; and

1 WHEREAS, If left untreated, PTSD symptoms have a positive
2 correlation with suicide risk; and

3 WHEREAS, The lack of effective PTSD treatments directly
4 contributes to the 20 veteran suicides the United States
5 experiences each day; and

6 WHEREAS, An SGB procedure injects an anesthetic agent on the
7 stellate ganglion, a collection of nerves in the neck that
8 controls the activation of the "fight" or "flight" survival
9 reflex; and

10 WHEREAS, SGB is proven to alleviate common PTSD symptoms such
11 as hyperarousal, exaggerated startle responses and anxiety; and

12 WHEREAS, The procedure has been performed since the 1920s and
13 is considered low risk; and

14 WHEREAS, SGB was first recognized as a treatment for PTSD in
15 2008; and

16 WHEREAS, H.R. 1656 is supported by the Pennsylvania National
17 Guard Associations, the American Legion and behavioral health
18 clinicians; therefore be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives beseech the
20 Congress of the United States to pass H.R. 1656, the Treatment
21 and Relief through Emerging and Accessible Therapy for PTSD Act;
22 and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
24 the President of the United States, leaders in Congress and the
25 Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation.