



HR0056

LRB100 08544 MST 18669 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, All citizens of the United States possess the
3 basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity; and

4 WHEREAS, All citizens of the United States deserve the
5 investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting
6 physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

7 WHEREAS, The brave men and women of the United States Armed
8 Forces who proudly serve, risk their lives to protect our
9 freedoms; and

10 WHEREAS, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was first
11 defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to
12 commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans who
13 had endured severe traumatic combat stress; and

14 WHEREAS, Combat stress has historically been viewed as a
15 mental illness caused by a pre-existing flaw of character or
16 ability; the word "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates
17 this misconception; and

18 WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) can occur
19 after experiencing a severely traumatic event to include, but
20 not be exclusive to, sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact

1 collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism,
2 and military combat; and

3 WHEREAS, PTSD is a very common injury to the brain that is
4 treatable and repairable; and

5 WHEREAS, Referring to the complications from
6 post-traumatic stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma and
7 bias against mental illness; this stigma can discourage the
8 injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, Making PTSD less stigmatizing and more honorable
10 can favorably influence those affected and encourage them to
11 seek help without fear of retribution or shame; and

12 WHEREAS, Proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide
13 rates; and

14 WHEREAS, All citizens suffering from PTSD deserve our
15 compassion and consideration: those who have received these
16 wounds in action against an enemy of the United States further
17 deserve our tribute and acknowledgement; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
19 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
20 declare June 27, 2017 as "Illinois Post-Traumatic Stress Injury

1 Awareness Day"; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That we declare June of 2017 as "Illinois
3 Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month"; and be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That we urge the Department of Public Health and
6 the Department of Veterans' Affairs to continue working to
7 educate victims of abuse, crime, and natural disasters, and
8 service members, veterans and their families, and the general
9 public, about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of
10 post-traumatic stress injury; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
12 delivered to the Governor, the Director of the Department of
13 Public Health, and the Director of the Department of Veterans'
14 Affairs.