

SENATE RESOLUTION

8713

By Senator O'Ban

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

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

6 WHEREAS, The diagnosis known as post-traumatic stress disorder
7 (PTSD) was first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in
8 1980 to more accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured
9 severe operational combat stress; and

10 WHEREAS, Combat stress injuries have historically been unjustly
11 portrayed as a mental illness caused by a preexisting flaw of
12 character or ability, and that the word "disorder" carries a stigma
13 that perpetuates this misconception which can discourage the injured
14 from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, Referring to the complications from combat operational
16 stress as a disorder perpetuates the stigma of and bias against
17 mental illness; and

18 WHEREAS, It has been shown through electromagnetic imaging that
19 the condition is more accurately described as an injury; and

20 WHEREAS, Severe post-traumatic stress is a very common, and
21 treatable, injury to the brain which can occur following exposure to
22 extremely traumatic events such as, but not limited to, interpersonal

1 violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, or natural disasters;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Referring to the condition as post-traumatic stress
4 injury (PTSI) is less stigmatizing and viewed as more honorable, and
5 this designation can favorably influence those affected and encourage
6 them to seek treatment without fear of retribution or shame; and

7 WHEREAS, All citizens suffering from a post-traumatic stress
8 injury deserve our compassion and consideration, and those brave men
9 and women of the United States Armed Forces who have received these
10 wounds in action against an enemy of the United States further
11 deserve our special tribute and acknowledgment; and

12 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury is an injury that is
13 repairable, and that timely treatment can diminish complications and
14 prevent suicides among the injured;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize the
16 importance of educating victims of interpersonal violence, combat,
17 life-threatening accidents, and natural disasters and their families,
18 as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms, and
19 treatment of post-traumatic stress injuries.

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