

**JOINT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING POST-TRAUMATIC  
STRESS INJURY AWARENESS DAY**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Peter C. Knudson**

House Sponsor: Edward H. Redd

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This joint resolution of the Legislature designates June 27, 2017, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

▸ designates June 27, 2017, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in the state of Utah; and

▸ urges the Department of Health and the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs to continue working to educate service members, veterans and their families, and victims of abuse, crime, and natural disaster, as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States possess the basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity;

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



28 WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who  
29 proudly serve the United States risk their lives to protect our freedom;

30 WHEREAS, the diagnosis now known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was  
31 first defined by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more  
32 accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress;

33 WHEREAS, combat stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by a  
34 pre-existing flaw of character and/or ability;

35 WHEREAS, the word "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception;

36 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) can occur after experiencing a severely  
37 traumatic event to include, but not be exclusive to, sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact  
38 collisions and crashes, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat;

39 WHEREAS, PTSI is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable;

40 WHEREAS, referring to the complications from post-traumatic stress as a disorder  
41 perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the  
42 injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment;

43 WHEREAS, making PTSI less stigmatizing and more honorable can favorably  
44 influence those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution or shame;

45 WHEREAS, proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide rates; and

46 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve compassion and consideration,  
47 and those who have received these wounds in action against an enemy of the United States  
48 deserve tribute and acknowledgment:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah  
50 designates June 27, 2017, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day in the state of Utah.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urges the  
52 Department of Health and the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs to continue  
53 working to educate service members, veterans and their families, and victims of abuse, crime,  
54 and natural disaster, as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of  
55 post-traumatic stress injury.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah  
57 Department of Health and the Utah Department of Veterans and Military Affairs.

**Legislative Review Note**  
**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**