

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

2018 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Peter C. Knudson

House Sponsor: Paul Ray

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution of the Legislature designates June 27, 2018, as Utah Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and June 2018 as Utah Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ designates June 27, 2018, as Utah Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day;
- ▶ designates June 2018 as Utah Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month; and
- ▶ urges the Department of Health and the Department of Veterans and Military

Affairs to continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence, combat, and life-threatening accidents or natural disasters, their families, and the citizens of Utah regarding the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.

Special Clauses:

None

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

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

WHEREAS, all citizens of the United States deserve the investment of every possible



28 resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being;

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

32 WHEREAS, combat stress injury has historically been unjustly portrayed as a mental
33 illness caused by a pre-existing flaw of character or ability;

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

35 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) may occur following exposure to
36 extremely traumatic events including interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents,
37 or natural disasters;

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

39 WHEREAS, referring to the complications from combat operational stress as a disorder
40 perpetuates the stigma of, and bias against, mental illness;

41 WHEREAS, this stigma can discourage the injured from seeking proper and timely
42 medical treatment;

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

46 WHEREAS, proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide rates among the injured;

47 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve our compassion and
48 consideration; and

49 WHEREAS, those brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have
50 received these wounds in action against an enemy of the United States further deserve our
51 special tribute and acknowledgment:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
53 designates June 27, 2018, as Utah Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah designates June
55 2018 as Utah Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Department of Health and
57 the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs to continue working to educate victims of
58 interpersonal violence, combat, and life-threatening accidents or natural disasters, their

59 families, and the citizens of Utah regarding the causes, symptoms, and treatment of
60 post-traumatic stress Injury.

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

Legislative Review Note
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel