

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 65

Senator Barrett offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to commemorate June 27, 2019, as Post Traumatic
2 Stress Injury Awareness Day.

3 Whereas, The brave men and women of the United States (U.S.)
4 Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United States, risk their lives
5 to protect the freedom of the United States and deserve the
6 investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting
7 physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing; and

8 Whereas, More than 2,000,000 U.S. service members have
9 deployed as part of overseas contingency operations since the
10 events of September 11, 2001; and

11 Whereas, The military has sustained an operational tempo for a
12 period of time unprecedented in the history of the United States,

1 with many service members deploying multiple times to combat
2 zones, placing them at high risk of post traumatic stress
3 injury (PTSI); and

4 Whereas, It is expected that ten thousand veterans will return
5 to the state of Michigan every year for the next three to five
6 years after spending a significant amount of time in combat
7 environments, exposing thousands of soldiers to traumatic life
8 threatening events; and

9 Whereas, The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports that
10 in fiscal year 2012, more than 500,000 veterans from all wars who
11 sought care at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical center
12 received treatment for PTSI; and

13 Whereas, PTSI significantly increases the risk of depression,
14 suicide, and drug or alcohol-related disorders and deaths; and

15 Whereas, Thousands of Michigan corrections professionals who
16 perform a critical and dangerous job protecting the public suffer
17 health detriments due to high stress and potentially traumatic
18 occupational experiences. Recent studies have shown that nearly
19 33.7 percent of surveyed corrections officers are estimated to be
20 PTSI positive in this state; and

21 Whereas, The U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S.
22 Department of Veterans Affairs have made significant advances in
23 the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSI and the symptoms
24 of PTSI. However, many challenges remain; and

25 Whereas, The establishment of a Post Traumatic Stress Injury
26 Awareness Day in Michigan will raise public awareness about issues
27 related to PTSI; now, therefore, be it

28 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
29 body commemorate June 27, 2019, as Post Traumatic Stress Injury

1 Awareness Day; and be it further

2 Resolved, That we urge the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
3 and the Adjutant General to continue working to educate service
4 members, veterans, the families of service members and veterans,
5 and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post
6 traumatic stress injury; and be it further

7 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the
8 Governor of the state of Michigan.