

Introduced by

Representatives Hogan, D. Johnson, Maragos, J. Nelson

Senators Bekkedahl, Mathern

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

1 A concurrent resolution declaring June 27, 2017, and each June 27 thereafter, as
2 "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" and the month of June 2017, and each June
3 thereafter, as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month".

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

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

8 **WHEREAS**, the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces proudly serve
9 the United States and risk their lives to protect our freedom; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the diagnosis known as posttraumatic stress disorder was first defined by the
11 American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately understand and
12 treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress; and

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

16 **WHEREAS**, posttraumatic stress injury can occur after experiencing a severely traumatic
17 event, including sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact collisions and crashes, natural
18 disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat; and

19 **WHEREAS**, posttraumatic stress injury is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable
20 and repairable; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Cares Coalition and state agencies, including the
22 Department of Human Services, the State Department of Health, and the Department of
23 Veterans' Affairs, continue to educate victims of abuse, crime, and natural disaster, and their
24 families; service members; veterans ~~and~~, their families, and survivors; and the general public
25 about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of posttraumatic stress injury; and

1 **WHEREAS**, referring to the complications from posttraumatic stress as a disorder
2 perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the
3 injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

4 **WHEREAS**, making posttraumatic stress injury less stigmatizing and more honorable can
5 favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution
6 or shame; and

7 **WHEREAS**, proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide rates; and

8 **WHEREAS**, all citizens suffering from posttraumatic stress injury deserve our compassion
9 and consideration, those who have received these wounds in action against an enemy of the
10 United States further deserve our tribute and acknowledgment;

11 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF**
12 **NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:**

13 That the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly declares June 27, 2017, and each June 27
14 thereafter, as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" and the month of June 2017, and
15 each June thereafter, as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month".