

CHAPTER 42

AN ACT

SB 1548

Relating to health; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas all citizens of the United States possess the basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity; and

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

Whereas the diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder was first classified by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe combat operational stress; and

Whereas combat operational stress has historically been unjustly portrayed as a mental illness caused by a preexisting flaw of character or ability, and the term “disorder” carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

Whereas referring to the complications from combat operational stress as a “disorder” perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and may discourage those affected from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and

Whereas the term “injury” may be less stigmatizing; and

Whereas post-traumatic stress injury can occur following exposure to extremely traumatic events including, but not limited to, interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents and natural disasters; and

Whereas post-traumatic stress injury is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable; and

Whereas making post-traumatic stress injury less stigmatizing and more honorable can favorably in-

fluence persons who are affected and encourage them to seek treatment without fear of retribution or shame; and

Whereas proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide rates among the injured; and

Whereas all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve our compassion and consideration, and the brave members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have received these wounds in action against enemies of the United States deserve our special tribute and acknowledgment; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Legislative Assembly designates:

(a) June 27 of each year as Oregon Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day; and

(b) The month of June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

(2) The Legislative Assembly respectfully urges the Oregon Health Authority, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and the Oregon Military Department to continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents and natural disasters and their families, as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.

SECTION 2. This 2018 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2018 Act takes effect on its passage.

Approved by the Governor March 16, 2018
 Filed in the office of Secretary of State March 21, 2018
 Effective date March 16, 2018