

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 188

Introduced by Assembly Member Melendez

May 23, 2016

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 188—Relative to PTSD Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 188, as introduced, Melendez. PTSD Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of June 2016 as PTSD Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Throughout our nation's history, the men and
2 women from the State of California have served in the United
3 States Armed Forces to preserve our freedom, protect our security,
4 and uphold our democratic values; from the battles of the Civil
5 War, through the crucible of two world wars, through adversity in
6 the Vietnam War and to the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan,
7 our men and women in uniform have stood proudly in defense of
8 the United States, the State of California, and the cause of liberty;
9 and
10 WHEREAS, Brave individuals who proudly serve in the Armed
11 Forces risk their lives for the freedom of every American and
12 deserve every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical,
13 mental, and emotional health; and
14 WHEREAS, More than 2,000,000 individuals who proudly
15 serve in the Armed Forces have deployed overseas since September

1 11, 2001, and have served in countries such as Afghanistan and
2 Iraq; and

3 WHEREAS, The Armed Forces has maintained a high
4 operational tempo since September 11, 2001, with many members
5 of the Armed Forces deploying overseas numerous times; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the California State Library,
7 California has approximately 1.9 million veterans. Most live in
8 southern California counties and are heavily clustered in Los
9 Angeles County (323,431 in 2012), San Diego County (222,348
10 in 2012), and Orange County (132,529 in 2012); and

11 WHEREAS, According to the California State Library,
12 approximately 26 percent of veterans report having a disability,
13 and 32 percent indicate that their disability had interfered with
14 them getting or holding a job; and

15 WHEREAS, Veterans of the Armed Forces and veterans who
16 served after September 11, 2001, remain at high risk of
17 post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

18 WHEREAS, PTSD considerably increases the risk of anxiety,
19 depression, drug- and alcohol-related disorders, and suicide,
20 especially if left untreated; and

21 WHEREAS, Several cases of PTSD remain undiagnosed and
22 unreported due to a lack of awareness and education on PTSD;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of
25 Veterans Affairs, 20 percent of veterans who served in Operations
26 Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year,
27 and 12 percent of Gulf War Veterans have PTSD in a given year;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Although the United States Department of Defense
30 and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs have made
31 significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment
32 of PTSD, many challenges remain; and

33 WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs
34 and the Secretary of Defense must continue to work to educate
35 service members, veterans, the families of service members and
36 veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment
37 of PTSD; and

38 WHEREAS, It is important to all citizens of the State of
39 California that those who served our country in the military are

1 aware of the symptoms of PTSD and are able to seek and receive
2 help; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature supports our soldiers who
5 are suffering from PTSD by bringing awareness of this disorder
6 to all Californians and proclaims the month of June 2016 as PTSD
7 Awareness Month in the state; and be it further

8 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
9 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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