

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 16, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 188

Introduced by Assembly Member Melendez
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Gonzalez)

May 23, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 188, as amended, Melendez. ~~PTSD~~ *PTS* Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of June 2016 as ~~PTSD~~ *PTS* 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

1 WHEREAS, More than 2,000,000 individuals who proudly
2 serve in the Armed Forces have deployed overseas since September
3 11, 2001, and have served in countries such as Afghanistan and
4 Iraq; and

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

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, ~~PTSD~~ *PTS* considerably increases the risk of
21 anxiety, depression, drug- and alcohol-related disorders, and
22 suicide, especially if left untreated; and

23 WHEREAS, ~~Several~~ *Many* cases of ~~PTSD~~ *PTS* remain
24 undiagnosed and unreported due to a lack of awareness and
25 education on ~~PTSD~~; *PTS*; and

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

31 WHEREAS, Although the United States Department of Defense
32 and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs have made
33 significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment
34 of ~~PTSD~~; *PTS*, many challenges remain; and

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

1 WHEREAS, It is important to all citizens of the State of
2 California that those who served our country in the military are
3 aware of the symptoms of ~~PTSD~~ *PTS* and are able to seek and
4 receive help; now, therefore, be it

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

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