

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 23, 2016

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~~)**

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Gonzalez, Achadjian, Alejo, Travis Allen, Arambula, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brough, Brown, Burke, Calderon, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gray, Grove, Hadley, Harper, Holden, Irwin, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Mullin, Nazarian, Obernolte, Olsen, Patterson, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)*

May 23, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 188, as amended, Melendez. PTS Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of June 2016 as 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

14 WHEREAS, More than 2,000,000 individuals who proudly  
15 serve in the Armed Forces have deployed overseas since September  
16 11, 2001, and have served in countries such as Afghanistan and  
17 Iraq; and

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

21 WHEREAS, According to the California State Library,  
22 California has approximately 1.9 million veterans. Most live in  
23 southern California counties and are heavily clustered in Los  
24 Angeles County (323,431 in 2012), San Diego County (222,348  
25 in 2012), and Orange County (132,529 in 2012); and

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

30 WHEREAS, Veterans of the Armed Forces and veterans who  
31 served after September 11, 2001, remain at high risk of  
32 post-traumatic stress (PTS); and

33 WHEREAS, PTS considerably increases the risk of anxiety,  
34 depression, drug- and alcohol-related disorders, and suicide,  
35 especially if left untreated; and

36 WHEREAS, Many cases of PTS remain undiagnosed and  
37 unreported due to a lack of awareness and education on PTS; and

38 WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of  
39 Veterans Affairs, 20 percent of veterans who served in Operations  
40 Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTS in a given year,

1 and 12 percent of Gulf War Veterans have PTS in a given year;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Although the United States Department of Defense  
4 and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs have made  
5 significant advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment  
6 of PTS, many challenges remain; and

7 WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
8 and the Secretary of Defense must continue to work to educate  
9 service members, veterans, the families of service members and  
10 veterans, and the public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment  
11 of PTS; and

12 WHEREAS, It is important to all citizens of the State of  
13 California that those who served our country in the military are  
14 aware of the symptoms of PTS and are able to seek and receive  
15 help; now, therefore, be it

16 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
17 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature supports our current and  
18 former service members who are suffering from PTS by bringing  
19 awareness to all Californians and proclaims the month of June  
20 2016 as PTS Awareness Month in the state; and be it further

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

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