

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 317**

Introduced by Walz, 15.

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress is a significant public health issue that can result from a variety of stressors including combat, interpersonal violence, high-impact collisions, natural disasters, and exposure to the suffering of others; and

WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as post-traumatic stress disorder was initially formulated in 1980 by the American Psychiatric Association to describe and categorize the symptoms and behavioral complications of severe traumatic stress; and

WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress has historically been unjustly portrayed as a mental illness caused by a preexisting flaw of character or ability, and the word "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception and creates a barrier that interferes with the ability of individuals to seek and receive timely care; and

WHEREAS, electro-magnetic imaging has shown that severe traumatic stress causes physical changes within the brain, which are more accurately described as an injury than a disorder; and

WHEREAS, any injury consistent with criteria A through H of section 309.81 of the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders deserves consideration and compensation strictly matching legal entitlements provided for disabilities that have been or are currently classified as post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, all individuals deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being as well as timely access to appropriate treatment of traumatic stress injuries averting complications and preventing suicide; and

WHEREAS, all individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress injuries and the brave men and women who received these wounds while risking their lives to protect the freedom, safety, and welfare of others deserve special recognition for their gallantry, commitment, and sacrifice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes June 27, 2024, as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and June 2024 as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month in Nebraska.

2. That the Legislature urges all individuals to observe Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote public understanding of the challenges faced by individuals with traumatic stress injuries and their families.