



**SR-94** (2021-2022)

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ENROLLED JULY 05, 2022

PASSED IN SENATE JUNE 27, 2022

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2021–2022 REGULAR SESSION

**SENATE RESOLUTION**

**NO. 94**

Introduced by Senator Cortese

June 13, 2022

Relative to Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and Month.

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

SR 94, Cortese.

WHEREAS, All citizens possess the basic human right of the preservation of personal dignity; and

WHEREAS, All citizens deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress can result from any number of stressors, including combat, interpersonal violence, severe impact collisions, natural disaster, and exposure to the suffering of others; and

WHEREAS, The diagnosis known as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was initially formulated in 1980 by the American Psychiatric Association to commonly describe and categorize the psychological aftermath of severe traumatic distress; 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 term "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates this misconception; and

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

WHEREAS, Referring to post-traumatic stress as a disorder can disparage the injured and discourage them from seeking timely care for their behavioral health needs; and

WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress injury exhibiting compliance with criteria A through H, inclusive, of Section 309.81 in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders deserves equal compensation strictly matching that presently allowed under the law for post-traumatic stress disorder; and

WHEREAS, All citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve our compassion and consideration. The brave men and women in the military who received these wounds while risking their lives to protect our freedom, health, and welfare deserve special recognition of their gallantry, commitment, devotion, and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, Timely access to appropriate treatment of post-traumatic stress injury can diminish complications and prevent suicide; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate hereby designates June 27 of each year as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate designates June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate respectfully urges the State Department of Public Health, Military Department, and Department of Veterans Affairs to continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents, or natural disasters and their families as well as the general public about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate respectfully requests that this resolution be transmitted to the Governor for appropriate proclamation and execution, and encourages all citizens and residents to join in this worthy observance; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.