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**SR-49** (2023-2024)

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ENROLLED SEPTEMBER 05, 2023

PASSED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 01, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

## SENATE RESOLUTION

**NO. 49**

Introduced by Senator McGuire

(Coauthors: Senators Archuleta, Dodd, Eggman, Grove, Menjivar, Newman, Roth, and Umberg)

August 23, 2023

Relative to veterans post-traumatic stress disorder awareness.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SR 49, McGuire.

WHEREAS, Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health problem. PTSD can develop after you go through or see a life-threatening or traumatic event; and

WHEREAS, PTSD is more common after certain types of trauma, like combat and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, PTSD is slightly more common among veterans than civilians. At some point in their life, 7 out of every 100 veterans, or 7 percent, will have PTSD. In the general population, 6 out of every 100, or 6 percent, of adults will have PTSD in their lifetime. PTSD is also more common among female veterans, with 13 out of the 100, or 13 percent, having PTSD, versus male veterans, with 6 out of the 100, or 6 percent, having PTSD, and we are still learning more about transgender veterans and those who do not identify as either male or female; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that deployment increases risk of PTSD. In some studies, PTSD is three times more likely among veterans who deployed compared to those veterans of the same service area who did not. Some factors in a combat situation may contribute to PTSD and other mental health problems, including military occupation or specialty, the politics surrounding the war, where the war is fought, and the type of enemy faced; and

WHEREAS, Another cause of PTSD in the military can be military sexual trauma (MST). This is sexual harassment or sexual assault that occurs while the person is in the military. MST can happen to anyone and can occur during peacetime, training, or war; and

WHEREAS, PTSD does not only happen to veterans who serve in combat. Military PTSD can happen after everything from witnessing some type of catastrophic event to experiencing an incident in combat or in training; and

WHEREAS, The aftereffects of PTSD can include anger, depression, chronic pain, sleep problems, substance misuse, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, June has been declared PTSD Awareness Month; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate encourages awareness of the effects of PTSD on veterans; and be it further

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