

SB 1548 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Boquist

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 02/07/18

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, DeBoer, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Steiner Hayward

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes June as Oregon’s Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month. Establishes June 27th as Oregon Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day. Urges Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Oregon Military Department to continue working on educating victims of trauma about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic stress injury. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Veterans affected by mental health conditions
- Support systems for veterans and law enforcement
- Terminology used to describe post-traumatic stress disorder
- Perceptions within veteran community of terminology
- Increasing awareness and availability of mental health services

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a mental health condition that may occur after an individual experiences or witnesses a traumatic event. Symptoms of PTSD may include persistent, frightening thoughts and memories of the event(s), sleep problems, detached or numb feelings, or the person may be easily startled. PTSD is the medical terminology used within the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), but PTSD can be commonly referred to as shell shock, battle fatigue, soldier's heart, and post-traumatic stress injury.

The National Institute of Mental Health reports that half of U.S. adults will experience at least one traumatic event in their lives, but most do not develop PTSD. It is estimated that 6.8 percent of U.S. adults and five percent of adolescents will have experienced PTSD at some point during their lives. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the number of veterans with PTSD varies depending on when their service occurred. Fifteen percent of Vietnam veterans, twelve percent of Gulf War veterans, and eleven to twenty percent of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom veterans are estimated to have PTSD.

The measure establishes June 27th as Oregon Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day and the month of June as Oregon’s Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.