

# Senate Bill 1548

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## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates June 27 as Oregon Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day. Designates June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to health; and declaring an emergency.

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3 Whereas all citizens of the United States possess the basic human right to the preservation of  
4 personal dignity; and

5 Whereas all citizens of the United States deserve the investment of every possible resource to  
6 ensure their lasting physical, mental and emotional well-being; and

7 Whereas the diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder was first classified by the American  
8 Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans  
9 who had endured severe combat operational stress; and

10 Whereas combat operational stress has historically been unjustly portrayed as a mental illness  
11 caused by a preexisting flaw of character or ability, and the term "disorder" carries a stigma that  
12 perpetuates this misconception; and

13 Whereas referring to the complications from combat operational stress as a "disorder" perpet-  
14 uates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and may discourage those affected from seeking  
15 proper and timely medical treatment; and

16 Whereas the term "injury" may be less stigmatizing; and

17 Whereas post-traumatic stress injury can occur following exposure to extremely traumatic  
18 events including, but not limited to, interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents and  
19 natural disasters; and

20 Whereas post-traumatic stress injury is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and  
21 repairable; and

22 Whereas making post-traumatic stress injury less stigmatizing and more honorable can favorably  
23 influence persons who are affected and encourage them to seek treatment without fear of retribution  
24 or shame; and

25 Whereas proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide rates among the injured; and

26 Whereas all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve our compassion and  
27 consideration, and the brave members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have received  
28 these wounds in action against enemies of the United States deserve our special tribute and ac-  
29 knowledgement; now, therefore,

30 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1       **SECTION 1.** (1) The Legislative Assembly designates:  
2       (a) June 27 of each year as Oregon Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day; and  
3       (b) The month of June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.  
4       (2) The Legislative Assembly respectfully urges the Oregon Health Authority, the De-  
5       partment of Veterans' Affairs and the Oregon Military Department to continue working to  
6       educate victims of interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents and natural  
7       disasters and their families, as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms and  
8       treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.  
9       **SECTION 2.** This 2018 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
10      peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2018 Act takes effect  
11      on its passage.

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