Senate Bill 1548

A BILL FOR AN ACT
Relating to health; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas all citizens of the United States possess the basic human right to the preservation of personal dignity; and
Whereas all citizens of the United States deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental and emotional well-being; and
Whereas the diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder was first classified by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately understand and treat veterans who had endured severe combat operational stress; and
Whereas combat operational 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 referring to the complications from combat operational stress as a “disorder” perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and may discourage those affected from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and
Whereas the term “injury” may be less stigmatizing; and
Whereas post-traumatic stress injury can occur following exposure to extremely traumatic events including, but not limited to, interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents and natural disasters; and
Whereas post-traumatic stress injury is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable and repairable; and
Whereas making post-traumatic stress injury less stigmatizing and more honorable can favorably influence persons who are affected and encourage them to seek treatment without fear of retribution or shame; and
Whereas proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide rates among the injured; and
Whereas all citizens suffering from post-traumatic stress injury deserve our compassion and consideration, and the brave members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have received these wounds in action against enemies of the United States deserve our special tribute and acknowledgement; now, therefore,

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.

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SECTION 1. (1) The Legislative Assembly designates:
(a) June 27 of each year as Oregon Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day; and
(b) The month of June as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month.
(2) The Legislative Assembly respectfully urges the Oregon Health Authority, the Depart-
ment of Veterans' Affairs and the Oregon Military Department to continue working to
educate victims of interpersonal violence, combat, life-threatening accidents and natural
disasters and their families, as well as the general public, about the causes, symptoms and
treatment of post-traumatic stress injury.

SECTION 2. This 2018 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2018 Act takes effect
on its passage.