

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. HJ0001

Traumatic brain injury and post traumatic stress treatments.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways & Military
Affairs Interim Committee

A JOINT RESOLUTION

for

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to enact legislation
2 and requesting that the Veteran's Administration work to
3 expand and improve efforts to treat traumatic brain injuries
4 and post-traumatic stress disorder.

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6 WHEREAS, national veteran suicide crises data indicates that
7 as many as twenty-two (22) veterans die by suicide every day;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress
11 disorder can be causes of suicide; and

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13 WHEREAS, data collected from 2000 to 2019 from Department of
14 Defense numbers for Active, Guard and Reserve members in the
15 Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, indicate that for all

1 severities of traumatic brain injuries, a total four hundred
2 thirteen thousand eight hundred fifty-eight (413,858) service
3 members who suffer from traumatic brain injuries; and

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5 WHEREAS, the number of veterans with post-traumatic stress
6 disorder varies by service era but ranges from about eleven
7 percent (11%) to about thirty percent (30%); and

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9 WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress
10 disorder both involve physical injury to brain tissue; and

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12 WHEREAS, current standards of care approved for veterans for
13 traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder
14 focus on medication and counseling; and

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16 WHEREAS, additional treatments, vocational counseling and
17 rehabilitation therapies exist that have been clinically
18 proven to mitigate symptoms and improve recovery when used
19 alone or integrated with counseling. Additional therapies to
20 treat traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress
21 disorder include physical therapy, occupational therapy,
22 cognitive therapy, speech therapy and hyperbaric oxygen
23 therapy; and

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2 WHEREAS, hyperbaric oxygen therapy couples hyperbaric oxygen
3 chamber treatment, which promotes oxygen for healing and
4 restoring injured brain tissue, together with counseling; and
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6 WHEREAS, access to a variety of treatments improves a
7 veteran's opportunities for healing and recovery; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Traumatic Brain Injuries and Post-Traumatic
10 Stress Disorder Treatment Act (2019 S. 2504/H.R. 4370) will
11 require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish
12 hyperbaric oxygen therapy to a veteran suffering from
13 traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder.

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15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE
16 LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

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18 **Section 1.** That the Wyoming Legislature requests that
19 Congress swiftly enact legislation providing for veterans'
20 access to treatments for traumatic brain injury and post-
21 traumatic stress disorder that include hyperbaric oxygen
22 therapy, such as the Traumatic Brain Injuries and Post-
23 Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment Act and any other

1 legislation improving or authoring access to other important
2 therapies and counseling and legislation fostering research
3 and development of additional therapies.

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5 **Section 2.** That the Wyoming Secretary of State transmit
6 copies of this resolution to the Wyoming Congressional
7 Delegation and the Secretary of the United States Department
8 of Veterans Affairs.

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10

(END)