

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1043

By: Dorman

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution memorializing Congress to dedicate funds  
8 to Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment,  
9 early intervention and prevention services, and to  
10 creating new inpatient facilities; and directing  
11 distribution.

12 WHEREAS, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety  
13 disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing of a  
14 traumatic event, such as military combat; and

15 WHEREAS, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are the longest  
16 sustained combat operations since the Vietnam War; and

17 WHEREAS, these ongoing wars are likely to produce a new  
18 generation of veterans with chronic mental health problems  
19 associated with participation in combat; and

20 WHEREAS, many of the challenges facing OIF (Operation Iraqi  
21 Freedom) and OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom) veterans are stressors  
22 that may lead to psychological distress, substance abuse and  
23 addiction, and PTSD; and  
24

1       WHEREAS, problems that result from combat stress and trauma are  
2 not signs of personal weakness; and

3       WHEREAS, the symptoms for PTSD include reliving the trauma,  
4 staying away from certain places and people that are reminders of  
5 the trauma, distrust of and isolation from people or feeling numb or  
6 hopeless, self-blame, guilt and shame, and feeling on guard,  
7 irritable or startling easily; and

8       WHEREAS, people affected by PTSD often experience other problems  
9 with depression, anxiety, substance abuse, problems of memory and  
10 cognition, sleep disorders, uncontrolled anger, problems with  
11 interpersonal relationships and other physical and mental health  
12 problems; and

13       WHEREAS, people with PTSD have higher rates of unemployment and  
14 chance of being fired, divorce or separation, domestic violence,  
15 homelessness, suicidal ideations, worsening physical health  
16 conditions, loss of productivity and the related negative economic  
17 impact, and a general decline in functioning and quality of life;  
18 and

19       WHEREAS, PTSD has affected 30% of the men and women who served  
20 in Vietnam, 10% of those who served in the Gulf War, between 6% and  
21 11% of those who served in Afghanistan and 12% to 20% of those who  
22 served in Iraq; and

23       WHEREAS, recovery is possible and there are now effective  
24 treatments for PTSD that, administered early, may prevent the

1 disorder from becoming worse and causing problems with quality of  
2 life, relationships and in the workplace; and

3 WHEREAS, without the proper screening, assessment, early  
4 intervention and treatment, it is likely that PTSD will cause these  
5 brave men and women to experience the traumatic effects of the  
6 disorder that can destroy their personal and professional lives; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States government has a responsibility to  
8 take care of our service men and women after they return home, so  
9 that they may continue to be functioning contributors to society.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
11 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

12 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives memorializes Congress  
13 to dedicate funds to provide PTSD treatment, early intervention and  
14 prevention services to combat veterans, including a PTSD inpatient  
15 treatment facility for veterans in the State of Oklahoma, a  
16 veteran's peer support network across the State of Oklahoma and  
17 early intervention and outpatient treatment services allowing  
18 Oklahoma's veterans to be treated in their local communities.

19 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to members of the  
20 Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

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22 51-1-6799 JJB 05/16/07

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