



2020 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6019

Introduced by: **Representative Zikmund**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging greater awareness and understanding of post-**
2 **traumatic stress injury.**

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

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

7 WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was initially
8 formulated in 1980 by the American Psychiatric Association to assess and assist veterans who
9 endured severe combat stress in Vietnam; and

10 WHEREAS, citizens exposed to extremely traumatic events other than combat, including
11 rape, sexual assault, battery, torture, confinement, child abuse, car accidents, train wrecks,
12 plane crashes, bombings, and natural disasters have also been diagnosed with PTSD; and

13 WHEREAS, it has been shown through electro-magnetic imaging that post-traumatic stress
14 is an invisible wound that can lead to physical change to the brain and, as such, should be
15 viewed as an injury rather than a disorder and stigmatized as a pre-existing flaw of character
16 or ability; and

17 WHEREAS, post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) is a less stigmatizing label than PTSD for
18 citizens who directly or indirectly experience a traumatic event or stressor that results in
19 symptoms that persist and conform with criteria B through H in the Diagnostic Statistical
20 Manual, and this less stigmatizing label may favorably influence and encourage these citizens
21 to seek timely treatment without fear of retribution or shame and thereby alleviate pain and
22 suffering and avert suicides; and

1 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from PTSI deserve our compassion and consideration,
2 especially the brave men and women who sustain this injury in service to our nation; and

3 WHEREAS, timely and appropriate treatment of PTSI can diminish complications and avert
4 suicides;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth
6 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that:

7 (1) The twenty-seventh day of June of each year be designated as Post-Traumatic
8 Stress Injury Awareness Day; and

9 (2) The month of June be designated as Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness
10 Month; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Departments of Health, Military, and Veterans Affairs
12 are urged to continue working to educate victims of interpersonal violence, combat, life-
13 threatening accidents or natural disasters and their families, as well as the general public,
14 about the causes, symptoms, and treatment of PTSI; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be transmitted to the Governor for
16 appropriate proclamation and execution and to the secretary of state for appropriate
17 publication and preservation.