



2020 South Dakota Legislature
**House Concurrent Resolution
6019**

SENATE EDUCATION ENGROSSED

Introduced by: **Representative Zikmund**

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, timely and appropriate treatment of PTSI can diminish complications and avert
22 suicides;

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

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

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

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

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