Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

## **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3024**

Introduced by

Representatives Hogan, D. Johnson, Maragos, J. Nelson

Senators Bekkedahl, Mathern

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

- 1 A concurrent resolution declaring June 27, 2017, as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness
- 2 Day" and the month of June as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month".
- 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 lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and
- WHEREAS, the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces proudly serve
- 8 the United States and risk their lives to protect our freedom; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the diagnosis known as posttraumatic stress disorder was first defined by the
- 10 American Psychiatric Association in 1980 to commonly and more accurately understand and
- 11 treat veterans who had endured severe traumatic combat stress; and
- WHEREAS, combat stress has historically been viewed as a mental illness caused by a
- 13 pre-existing flaw of character or ability and the word "disorder" carries a stigma that perpetuates
- 14 this misconception; and
- WHEREAS, posttraumatic stress injury can occur after experiencing a severely traumatic
- 16 event, including sexual assault, child abuse, high-impact collisions and crashes, natural
- 17 disasters, acts of terrorism, and military combat; and
- 18 WHEREAS, posttraumatic stress injury is a very common injury to the brain that is treatable
- 19 and repairable; and
- WHEREAS, state agencies, including the State Department of Health and the Department
- 21 of Veterans' Affairs, continue to educate victims of abuse, crime, and natural disaster; service
- 22 members; veterans and their families; and the general public about the causes, symptoms, and
- 23 treatment of posttraumatic stress injury; and

1 WHEREAS, referring to the complications from posttraumatic stress as a disorder 2 perpetuates the stigma of and bias against mental illness, and this stigma can discourage the 3 injured from seeking proper and timely medical treatment; and 4 WHEREAS, making posttraumatic stress injury less stigmatizing and more honorable can 5 favorably influence those affected and encourage them to seek help without fear of retribution 6 or shame; and 7 WHEREAS, proper and timely treatment can diminish suicide rates; and 8 WHEREAS, all citizens suffering from posttraumatic stress injury deserve our compassion 9 and consideration, those who have received these wounds in action against an enemy of the 10 United States further deserve our tribute and acknowledgment; 11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF 12 NORTH DAKOTA, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN: 13 That the Sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly declares June 27, 2017, as "Posttraumatic Stress 14 Injury Awareness Day" and the month of June as "Posttraumatic Stress Injury Awareness 15 Month".