

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Reps. Conlin, Miller, Byrnes, Steckloff, Rheingans, Hope, Coffia, Stone, Glanville, Arbit, MacDonell, Skaggs, Haadsma, Koleszar, Martus, Brixie, Wilson, Wegela, McKinney, Hill, Hood and Bezotte offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to urge the United States Congress,
2 Department of Defense, and Department of Veterans Affairs to
3 prioritize research and investment in non-technology treatment
4 options for servicemembers and veterans who have psychological
5 trauma as a result of military service.

6 Whereas, The men and women who voluntarily sign-up to serve
7 our nation in the United States Armed Forces, and the additional
8 uniformed services, generally do so with an understanding that such
9 service may ultimately impact their physical and mental well-being.
10 Even with this knowledge, they still answer the call to serve; and

11 Whereas, Members of the active-duty Air Force, Coast Guard,

1 Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force, and their reserve components,
2 the Army and Air National Guard, may have experiences that increase
3 the risk for developing behavioral health problems, including
4 traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and
5 depression. Effective treatment options for these conditions vary
6 from servicemember to servicemember; and

7 Whereas, Upon return from a deployment, members of the reserve
8 components and the National Guard are demobilized and must
9 reintegrate back into civilian life, while simultaneously losing
10 access to the full range of services offered by the military health
11 system and having to emotionally deal with the same experiences as
12 their active-duty counterparts; and

13 Whereas, Non-technology treatment options, such as buddy-to-
14 buddy programs, controlled use of psychedelics in clinical
15 settings, outdoor therapy, and easier access to service animals,
16 among others, have shown promise to help veterans improve their
17 mental health and find a new normal while dealing with the
18 invisible wounds of war and service; and

19 Whereas, The families of servicemembers must also not be
20 forgotten, and resources should be made available to help them
21 understand and assist their loved ones who may be suffering from
22 psychological trauma. Family members of servicemembers or veterans
23 with behavioral health problems may experience family violence and
24 aggression, lower parenting satisfaction, and child behavior
25 problems. Resources should include services that will help family
26 members deal with the impacts of their family members' service; and

27 Whereas, The need to address veteran mental health is of key
28 importance in Michigan. In 2021, it was reported that there were
29 554,281 veterans living in Michigan, making Michigan rank eleventh

1 out of fifty-three states and territories in veteran population.
2 However, between 2016 and 2020, it was reported that there were 882
3 Michigan veterans who died by suicide; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate
5 concurring), That we urge the United States Congress, Department of
6 Defense, and Department of Veterans Affairs to prioritize research
7 and investment in non-technology treatment options for
8 servicemembers and veterans who have psychological trauma as a
9 result of military service; and be it further

10 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
11 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
12 President of the United States Senate, the Chair and Ranking
13 Members of the Committees on Veterans Affairs and Armed Services,
14 and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.