

ORIGINAL HOUSE
JOINT RESOLUTION. HJ0001

ENGROSSED

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

SIXTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING
2021 GENERAL SESSION

A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to enact legislation and requesting that the Veteran's Administration work to expand and improve efforts to treat traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder.

WHEREAS, national veteran suicide crises data indicate that as many as twenty-two (22) veterans die by suicide every day; and

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder can be causes of suicide; and

WHEREAS, data collected from 2000 to 2019 from Department of Defense numbers for Active, Guard and Reserve members in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, indicate that for all severities of traumatic brain injuries, a total of four hundred thirteen thousand eight hundred fifty-eight (413,858) service members suffer from traumatic brain injuries; and

WHEREAS, the number of veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder varies by service era but ranges from about eleven percent (11%) to about thirty percent (30%); and

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder both involve physical injury to brain tissue; and

WHEREAS, current standards of care approved for veterans for traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder focus on medication and counseling; and

WHEREAS, additional treatments, vocational counseling and rehabilitation therapies exist that have been clinically proven to mitigate symptoms and improve recovery when used alone or integrated with counseling. Additional therapies to

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treat traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder include physical therapy, occupational therapy, cognitive therapy, speech therapy and hyperbaric oxygen therapy; and

WHEREAS, hyperbaric oxygen therapy couples hyperbaric oxygen chamber treatment, which promotes oxygen for healing and restoring injured brain tissue, together with counseling; and

WHEREAS, access to a variety of treatments improves a veteran's opportunities for healing and recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Traumatic Brain Injuries and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment Act (2019 S. 2504/H.R. 4370) will require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish hyperbaric oxygen therapy to a veteran suffering from traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

Section 1. That the Wyoming Legislature requests that Congress swiftly enact legislation providing for veterans' access to treatments for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder that include hyperbaric oxygen therapy, such as the Traumatic Brain Injuries and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment Act and any other legislation improving or authorizing access to other important therapies and counseling and legislation fostering research and development of additional therapies.

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(END)

President of the Senate

Governor

DATE APPROVED: 9 Feb 2021

Chief Clerk

