



The National TreatNOW Summary of State-by-State Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) Legislative and Resolution Effort (10/23/2023)

The TreatNOW Coalition has been working for over 16-years to treat the signature invisible physical brain wounds of Veterans. Over 877,450 brain wounded Veterans returned home from Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001. The Veteran suicide and opioid epidemics have taken its toll with approximately 220,000+ deaths and counting. Over 847 million opioid pills delivered by the VA Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacies (CMOP) from 2006 to 2014 (DEA.gov) which inflicted 679,000 Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Veterans in 4Q2012. The 877,450 TBI/PTSD Veteran societal economic impact is approximately \$118.1 billion annually, \$4.7 trillion over 40-year life span. We can safely and effectively help heal TBI Veterans for ½ of one percent of the lifetime cost. The Coalition *has not been* successful in helping send a U.S. Congressional House and Senate passed bill to fund Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy in those states who have enacted legislation. State-level efforts began in 2010 with Oklahoma the first state in 2014. Veteran advocates and supporters in multiple states began education efforts to engage with state legislators and Veteran groups to pass meaningful HBOT-for-TBI/PTSD legislation in each state. To date, those efforts have succeeded in ten states enacting HBOT legislation: Oklahoma, Texas, Indiana, Arizona, Kentucky, Florida, North Carolina, Wyoming, Maryland, and Virginia,

Indiana, Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Maryland have legislated or supported either partial or full funding for treatments. Why are Veteran advocates and Veteran Service Organizations having to legislate state by state to provide lifesaving HBOT treatments to our Veterans? HBOT for TBI/PTSD Veterans has been proven with over 21 IRB clinical medical trials to be safe, efficient, and effective to help heal TBI Veterans. The United States Veteran's Bureau (War Risk Insurance Act) of 1923 (S.2257) states on Page 3, Item 18, "Payment of compensation is authorized for a recurrence of a preexisting disease as well as for the aggravation of the preexisting disease, to which the present provision is limited." Individual states should consider this Act and seek reimbursed from the federal government for expenditures in the care of TBI/PTSD Veterans.

Below is a Summary of the ten-state legislative effort; additional detail can be viewed at <http://treatnow.org/contact/state-campaigns>.

Oklahoma: Senate Bill 1604, "Oklahoma Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment and Recovery Act of 2014" was the first state **enacted on April 30, 2014**. Legislation is in 2023/2024 preparation to appropriate funds into State Fund to pay for treatments. Currently, donation and pro bono activity on the part of the Patriot Clinics have successfully treated and help heal more than 600 veterans, fire, police, first responder, and National Guard. Oklahoma has a Veteran population of 266,513. Veteran homelessness in Oklahoma declined by 10.5 percent in 2019, leaving only 280 Veterans homeless. There are an estimated 13,156 TBI/PTSD Veterans in the state, 110 suicides per year, and 1,020 with opioid use disorder.

House Vote 83-0, Senate Vote 43-0 (126-0)

Texas: House Bill HB 271 is the Veterans Recovery Pilot Program, **enacted on May 29, 2017**. Effective 9/1/2017. Legislation is in preparation to appropriate funds from the State Fund to pay for treatments. Currently, donation and pro bono activity on the part of four Clinics in Texas have successfully treated and helped heal several dozen Texas veterans, fire, police, first responders, and National Guard. Texas has the second largest veteran population in the country, second only to California. Texas currently has 1,806 homeless veterans. There are an estimated 68,326 TBI/PTSD Veterans in the state, 569 suicides per year and 5,304 with opioid use disorder. **House Vote 139-0, Senate Vote 29-1(168-1)**

Indiana: Senate Enrolled Act No 96, HB 1306, Indiana Veteran Recovery Pilot Study, **enacted and effective on July 1, 2017**, and further revised in 2019/2020. \$1,000,000 funded through the state General Fund for a five-year state funded program which has been extended several times Approximately 32,000 of the 380,000 veterans in Indiana are woman and 572 are homeless. There are an estimated 18,210 TBI/PTSD Veterans in the state, 153 suicides per year and 1,428 with opioid use disorder. **House Vote 92-0, Senate Vote 45-0 (137-0)**

Arizona: Arizona HB 2513, 1512, Section 26-105, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this Act, **enacted March 29, 2018**, establishes the Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Military Veterans Fund. The sum of \$25,000 state appropriated and funded from the General Fund in FY 2018/2019 to the Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Military Veterans Fund. The veteran population in Arizona is just over 496,000. There are 910 homeless veterans. Veterans in Arizona have three times higher risk of depression, PTSD, and suicide than non-veterans. There are an estimated 22,253 TBI/PTSD Veterans in the state, 183 suicides per year, and 1,700 with opioid use disorder. **House Vote 59-0, Senate Vote 30-0 (89-0)**

Kentucky: House Bill 64, amended into KRS 217.930-942, the Colonel Ronald D. Ray Traumatic Brain Injury and Treatment Act, **enacted on July 14, 2018**. No state funding was allocated but legislation effort is planned in 2023/2024 in preparation to seek and appropriate state funds to support treatment. House Concurrent Resolution 40, **enacted March 30, 2022**. Urges Kentucky's Congressional delegation to include Kentucky's Veterans Affairs Medical Centers into the Center for Compassionate Innovation, a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program enabling the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment for veterans with a traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder and urges the VA Community Care Program to be utilized to contract with eligible community partners to provide HBOT to TBI Veterans. Kentucky has 267,000 veterans, or approximately 8% of the population 18 or older. There are approximately 447 homeless, and the state is one of the leading states in Veteran opioid addiction. Kentucky was one of five states heavily impacted by the opioid addiction epidemic. The Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund granted **funding of \$8K** in 2021 for HBOT treatments of TBI/PTSD Veterans. There are an estimated 12,872 TBI/PTSD Veterans in the state with an estimated \$484.2 million annual societal economic impact by TBI/PTSD Veterans, 110 suicides per year, and 1,020 with opioid use disorder. **HB 64 House Vote 89-0 Senate Vote 38-0, HCR 40 House Vote 97-0, Senate Vote 38-0 (135-0)**

Florida: House Bill 501, **enacted on June 26, 2019**, and effective July 1, 2019. Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy was among the five alternative treatment options specified in the legislation. CS/CS/HB 501 creates a \$200,000 pilot program focused on treating post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries in veterans using alternative therapies. It expands available therapies for eligible veterans to include accelerated resolution therapy, equine therapy, music therapy, service animal training therapy and hyperbaric oxygen therapy at registered facilities. Florida has 1, 525,400 veterans and an estimated 2,472 homeless veterans. Florida in 2023 increased state **funding** for TBI/PTSD Veteran HBOT treatments to **\$14 million with an additional \$14 million to University of Central Florida (UCF) for the treatment program**. There are an estimated 67,936 TBI/PTSD Veterans in the state, with an estimated \$3.8 billion annual societal economic impact by TBI/PTSD Veterans, 562 suicides per year, and 5,236 with opioid use disorder. **House Vote 114-0, Senate Vote 40-0 (154-0)**

North Carolina: House Bill 50/SL 2019-175 S149) sponsored by now U.S. Congressman Dr. Greg Murphy was **enacted July 26, 2019**. The bill authorized prescription of HBOT therapy for veterans with TBI and PTSD.

State legislation has **funded \$250K**. In part because of this bill, HBOT continues to be provided using private funds to treat active duty and veteran military families as well as first responders, firemen, and policemen. The state veteran population of approximately 667,035 (8.3% of population 18 or older). It ranks 21st in the country for veterans in 2018, largely because 32,000 veterans are unemployed, 907 homeless and 48,000 with an income below the poverty level. There are an estimated 31,161 TBI/PTSD Veterans in the state, 256 suicides per year and 2,380 with opioid use disorder. **House Vote 112-0 Senate Vote 42-0 (154-0)**

Wyoming: House Joint Resolution HJ 0001, **enacted on February 9, 2021**, the Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Treatments. A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting “US Congress swiftly enact legislation providing for Veterans’ access to treatments for traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder that include hyperbaric oxygen therapy.” There are an estimated 2,032 TBI/PTSD Veterans in the state, 15 suicides per year and 136 with opioid use disorder. **House Vote 57-3, Senate Vote 4-0 (61-3)**

Maryland: The David Perez Military Heroes Act, SB 709 establishes the Post-Traumatic-Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury Alternative Therapies, state **funded of \$1 million** in 2024 as a special non-lapsing fund for treating TBI/PTSD Veterans **enacted May 29, 2022**. There are an estimated 17,409 TBI/PTD Veterans in the state, with an estimated \$584.5 million annual societal economic impact by TBI/PTSD Veterans, 146 suicides and 1,360 with opioid use disorder. **House Vote 135-0, Senate Vote 46-0 (181-0)**

Virginia: SB1082 Virginia Veteran Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Treatment and Recovery Act of 2023 was **enacted on March 26, 2023**. Allows the Department of Veterans Services to contract with any hyperbaric clinic providing medical-grade 100 percent oxygen in U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved chambers in the Commonwealth or any hospital that furnishes a comprehensive treatment program that includes medication, psychotherapy, and hyperbaric oxygen therapy, from an accredited program, to any veteran in the Commonwealth who has been certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the United States Armed Forces as having post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury. There are an estimated 30,958 TBI/PTSD Veterans in the state, with an estimated \$2.1 billion annual societal economic impact by TBI/PTSD Veterans, 256 suicides and 2,380 with opioid use disorder. **House Vote 96-0, Senate Vote 36-0 (132-0)**

Note: Statistical data from The National Brain-Wounded Veteran Brain Drain, Googlebooks.com, October 2021, the legislative data through the individual state legislative websites.

The legislative state efforts have these common characteristics:

1. Total individual state House and Senate vote tally across all ten states on HBOT for TBI/PTSD Veterans equates to 1,364 yes to 4 no votes. A total of 1,364 state legislators have voted in favor of HBOT for TBI/PTSD Veterans.
2. Every state has an obligation to medically care for our Veterans not treated by the federal government through federal and state Medicare funds for indigent, unemployed, incarcerations, and homelessness.
3. Every state in the Union has on average 17,500 TBI/PTSD Veterans (877,450/50) residing in their communities with the highest Veteran suicide rate in our nation history. Over 146,000 Veteran suicides (20 per day x 365 x 20 years) since 2003 that has not improved for the past twenty years.
4. The ten HBOT enacted and legislative states and their Governors recognize Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy has a proven efficacy and is cost efficient in helping treat TBI/PTSD veterans leading to eliminating suicide ideation to reduce the suicide rate.
5. Each legislated state has legislation that can be modified to allow the state to recommend and specify how treatments will be provided and paid for through a community-based treatment network of hospitals and private clinics. The enacted states just require the federal funding. There are a minimum of 1,156 hospitals across the country with HBOT chambers fully certified, approved, and staffed with qualified medical doctors.

6. While not all states have allocated state funds to treat TBI/PTSD Veterans, states with enacted legislation recognize the need for private and public funds to be used until the federal government recognizes its obligations, or the states seek re-imbusement for medical support to Veterans wounded in service to our country.
7. All state legislation falls within state public health auspices and pays particular attention to the health, safety and welfare of any Veteran/patient treated.
8. The HBOT enacted states that are treating TBI Veterans will begin to see the economic impact of returning Veterans to the workforce and allowing them to be a part of the economic engine again.
9. It is estimated the economic impact of 877,450 TBI/PTSD Veterans to America is \$118.1 billion annually, \$4.7 trillion over 40-year life span. That is an average impact cost of \$2.3 billion annually to each state. We can treat and heal for less than ½ of 1 percent of the lifetime cost.
10. Every state in the union is impacted by the Veteran opioid epidemic. The TBI/PTSD Veteran community is especially impacted because of “treat the symptom” approach to the physical brain wounding and pharmacology pain management.