

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY SENATOR CROWE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request state and local government agencies to improve outreach to veterans and their families on mental health and readjustment issues.

WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of Americans have proudly served in the United States military and the armed forces in combat zones in Iraq, Afghanistan and other troubled parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, these brave men and women will face normal challenges readjusting from the stress of combat back into their civilian lives; and

WHEREAS, family members of military personnel stationed in combat areas experience emotional challenges coping with a loved one who is in danger and exposed to events of war; and

WHEREAS, recent national data reveals higher than average suicide rates and mental health issues for U.S. Armed Forces personnel returning from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and their families and this data further reveals that returning veterans and their families oftentimes face additional stress and pressures upon their return due to financial and housing difficulties; and

WHEREAS, overcoming the stigma associated with mental illness and readjustment issues and facing the question of whether to seek treatment for them is something that poses serious challenges to veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, many states in the nation have existing state and local community resources that can assist returning combat veterans and their families that are dealing with readjustment issues; and

WHEREAS, nationwide organizations exist which provide dedicated, complimentary and confidential mental health counseling to returning veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, as Louisiana legislators, we have a responsibility to assist in the coordination and improve the response that veterans and their families receive within the mental health systems both in Louisiana and in the various other states.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its support and encouragement for all efforts whether state, local or private, to utilize outreach methods to contact, counsel, and refer veterans and their family members to the critical health, career, and social services they have earned by their brave service and may require at this time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge leaders in government, veterans affairs and mental health leadership teams throughout the country to encourage health care and social service professionals to enhance their understanding of mental health and reintegration issues facing veteran and their families and to consider volunteering their services in support of veterans and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the House and House Minority Leader, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, the members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation, the Governor of Louisiana and all Louisiana cabinet officials.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES