

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

Unofficial

Relating to the establishment of the task force on trauma-informed care for veterans.

Whereas, the state of Missouri has the fifteenth largest veteran population in the nation; and

Whereas, many veterans may experience trauma before, during, or following their military service, which can have a significant impact upon their health, treatment needs, employment, and home life; and

Whereas, trauma is associated with a multitude of mental health conditions including posttraumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders; and

Whereas, trauma-informed care is framework for providing services to traumatized individuals that requires changes to the practices, policies, and cultures of an entire organization; and

Whereas, trauma-informed care approaches in workplaces, communities, and government programs can aid in preventing mental, emotional, physical, and social issues for veterans impacted by toxic stress or trauma; and

Whereas, all entities, public and private, serving veterans play a pivotal role in supporting their recovery from trauma; and

Whereas, it is in the public's interest for the state to establish a Task Force on Trauma-Informed Care for Veterans in order to promote the healthy recovery of and provide support for veterans and their families living in Missouri communities who have been affected by trauma:

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby create the Missouri Task Force on Trauma-Informed Care for Veterans; and

Be It Further Resolved that the mission of the Task Force shall be to fully consider and study:

(1) The current unmet needs of veterans and their families affected by trauma, and the accessibility of services for such service men and women;

(2) The number of service providers, public and private, in the state who have implemented trauma-informed approaches in veteran service settings;

(2) The development and implementation of education and training in providing trauma-informed care for staff in state-funded programs serving veterans and their families; and

(3) Ways to promote and facilitate interagency cooperation in addressing the needs of veterans and their families affected by trauma and providing resources regarding trauma-informed care to the public; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Task Force shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two members of the Senate, one to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(2) Two members of the House of Representatives, one to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one to be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;

(3) The Executive Director of the Missouri Veterans Commission, or his or her designee;

(4) The Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, or his or her designee;

(5) The Director of the Department of Mental Health, or his or her designee;

(6) The Director of the Department of Social Services, or his or her designee;

(7) The Director of the Veterans Center, University of Missouri, or his or her designee;

(8) One representative from the VA St. Louis Health Care System Hope Recovery Center, who specializes in the rehabilitation and recovery of veterans, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(9) Four members from the private sector with knowledge of trauma-informed care methods, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one whom shall be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and

Be It Further Resolved that the members shall elect a chair from the members who are members of the General Assembly, and that the Task Force, its members, and any staff assigned to the committee shall be reimbursed for travel and other expenses actually and necessarily included in the performance of their duties; and

Be It Further Resolved that the staffs of Senate Research, House Research, and the Joint Committee on Legislative Research shall provide such legal, research, clerical, technical, and bill drafting services as the Task Force may require in the performance of its duties; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Task Force shall terminate by either a majority of members voting for termination, or by December 31, 2020, whichever occurs first; and

Be It Further Resolved that on the date of termination, the Task Force shall deliver a report of findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and the Veterans Commission; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Secretary of the Missouri Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Veterans Commission, the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Director of the Department of Mental Health, and the Director of the Department of Social Services; and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be sent to the Governor for his approval or rejection pursuant to the Missouri Constitution.

Resolution

Copy