

Representative Bob Herron

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House District 38
Kuskokwim, Yukon & Johnson Rivers
Kuskokwim Bay & Nelson Island

Akiachak

Akiak

Aniak

Atmautluak

Bethel

Chefornak

Chuathbaluk

Crooked Creek

Eek

Goodnews Bay

Kasigluk

Kipnuk

Kongiganak

Kwethluk

Kwigillingok

Lower Kalskag

Marshall

Mekoryuk

Mertarvik

Napakiaik

Napaskiak

Newtok

Nightmute

Nunapitchuk

Oscarville

Platinum

Quinhagak

Russian Mission

Toksok Bay

Tuluksak

Tununak

Tuntutuliak

Upper Kalskag

HJR 30

Urging the American Psychiatric Association to change the term "post-traumatic stress disorder" to "post-traumatic stress injury"; and urging the governor to support usage of the term "post-traumatic stress injury"

Sponsor Statement

HJR 30 urges discontinuing the usage of the term "post-traumatic stress disorder" and encouraging the usage of the term "post-traumatic stress injury."

A post-traumatic stress injury occurs after a person has experienced a trauma resulting from the stress of combat, as well as rape, torture, child abuse, and other traumas and is characterized by numerous symptoms; including flashbacks, nightmares, insomnia, and thoughts of suicide.

Hundreds of thousands of American service members have been clinically diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and the injury affects an estimated total of 7.7 million Americans, as well as thousands of Alaskans.

The term post-traumatic stress disorder carries a stigma of misconceptions that the injury is an untreatable disorder – it is, in fact, a treatable injury. HJR 30 joins other national efforts to continue to make post-traumatic stress less stigmatizing in order to increase the number of those affected to voluntarily seek help and assistance. Proper and timely treatment can reduce negative outcomes and, in particular, suicide rates among all citizens, particularly our veterans.

HJR 30 specifically resolves that the Alaska State Legislature:

- Believes that the term "post-traumatic stress disorder" be universally changed to "post-traumatic stress injury"
- Urges the American Psychiatric Association to consider changing the term "post-traumatic stress disorder" to "post-traumatic stress injury" for the next revision of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
- Urges the Governor to support the usage of the term "post-traumatic stress injury"