|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) | | June 27, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |   **Senate Passes Bipartisan Heller-Heitkamp Resolution Making June Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month**  *More than 1 in 4 Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans Has Received VA Treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress*  *Senators Removed Word ‘Disorder’ from Resolution Title For First Time to Eliminate Stigma*  **(Washington, DC)** - Recently, U.S. Senators Dean Heller (R-NV) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) announced the U.S. Senate unanimously passed their bipartisan resolution designating June 2016 as National Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) Awareness Month, and designating June 27 as National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day. Thirty U.S. senators cosponsored the resolution.  For the fourth consecutive year, Heller and Heitkamp have sponsored and the U.S. Senate has passed this bipartisan resolution to raise awareness about challenges facing servicemembers, veterans, and others who experience post-traumatic stress – and to eliminate the stigma sometimes associated with it. This year’s resolution seeks to combat stigma by removing the word “disorder” from the title of the resolution for the first time, emphasizing that post-traumatic stress is a common and treatable injury.  “Every time I hold a veterans’ roundtable in Nevada, veterans tell me about the challenges addressing post-traumatic stress in the military and veteran community,” said **Heller**. “PTS follows veterans home and continues to have an impact on quality of life, and oftentimes, the veteran’s relationships with family and friends. But many of America’s heroes affected by PTS aren’t coming forward for help. Veterans need to know that they are not alone in facing these challenges and that support is there to ensure they recover.”  “The simple act of raising awareness can be so consequential when it comes to post-traumatic stress, which is why we’re leading the U.S. Senate in naming June ‘Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Month’ for the fourth year in a row,” said **Heitkamp**. “This year, I’m proud to take a step forward in eliminating stigma by removing the word ‘disorder’ from the title of our resolution – reinforcing that this is a common, treatable injury for so many. Post-traumatic stress is serious and it impacts hundreds of thousands of veterans across the country. To make sure they get the support they deserve, we need to keep raising awareness about PTS and provide resources to veterans who put their lives on the line. Resources like the five-day Vet Center I secured in Grand Forks can also go a long way in helping make a difference.”  According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), more than 25 percent of Afghanistan and Iraq veterans treated by VA medical facilities – and more than 569,000 veterans from all eras – received treatment for post-traumatic stress last year.  The resolution was cosponsored by U.S. Senators Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Thom Tillis (R-NC), Patty Murray (D-WA), Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Mark Warner (D-VA), James Inhofe (R-OK), Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Richard Durbin (D-IL), John Hoeven (R-ND), Robert Casey (D-PA), Steve Daines (R-MT), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Jon Tester (D-MT), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Edward Markey (D-MA), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Christopher Coons (D-DE), Pat Roberts (R-KS), Gary Peters (D-MI), Angus King (I-ME), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Joe Donnelly (D-IN).  ###  [cid:image005.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177)[cid:image006.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller)[cid:image007.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |