

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 217

Reps. McFall, Xiong, Brixie, Young, Dievendorf, Neeley, Tate, Weiss, Tsernoglou, Steckloff, Paiz, Scott, Mentzer, Glanville, Wooden, Liberati and Breen offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to urge the United States Congress, Department of  
2 War, and Department of Veterans Affairs to prioritize research and  
3 investment in non-technology treatment options for servicemembers  
4 and veterans who have psychological trauma as a result of military  
5 service.

6       Whereas, The men and women who voluntarily sign-up to serve  
7 our nation in the United States Armed Forces, and the additional  
8 uniformed services, generally do so with an understanding that such  
9 service may ultimately impact their physical and mental well-being.  
10 Even with this knowledge, they still answer the call to serve; and

11       Whereas, Members of the active-duty and reserve components of  
12 the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, as well

1 as the Space Force and Army and Air National Guard, may have  
2 experiences that increase the risk of developing behavioral health  
3 problems, including traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress  
4 disorder, and depression. Effective treatment options for these  
5 conditions vary from servicemember to servicemember; and

6       Whereas, Upon return from deployment, members of the reserve  
7 components and the National Guard are demobilized and must  
8 reintegrate back into civilian life, while simultaneously losing  
9 access to the full range of services offered by the military health  
10 system and having to emotionally deal with the same experiences as  
11 their active-duty counterparts; and

12       Whereas, Non-technology treatment options, such as buddy-to-  
13 buddy programs, controlled use of psychedelics in clinical  
14 settings, outdoor therapy, and easier access to service animals,  
15 among others, have shown promise in helping veterans improve their  
16 mental health and finding a new normal while dealing with the  
17 invisible wounds of war and service; and

18       Whereas, The families of servicemembers must also not be  
19 forgotten, and resources should be made available to help them  
20 understand and assist their loved ones who may be suffering from  
21 psychological trauma. Family members of servicemembers or veterans  
22 with behavioral health problems may experience family violence and  
23 aggression, lower parenting satisfaction, and child behavior  
24 problems. Resources should include services that will help family  
25 members deal with the impacts of their loved ones' service; and

26       Whereas, The need to address veteran mental health is of key  
27 importance in Michigan. In 2023, it was reported that there were  
28 516,758 veterans living in Michigan, making Michigan rank twelfth  
29 out of fifty-three states and territories in veteran population.

1 However, between 2016 and 2020, it was reported that there were 882  
2 Michigan veterans who died by suicide. In 2022, 170 veterans died  
3 by suicide in our state; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
5 United States Congress, Department of War, and Department of  
6 Veterans Affairs to prioritize research and investment in non-  
7 technology treatment options for servicemembers and veterans who  
8 have psychological trauma as a result of military service; and be  
9 it further

10 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
11 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the  
12 President of the United States Senate, the Chair and Ranking  
13 Members of the Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Armed Services,  
14 the United States Secretary of War, the United States Secretary of  
15 Veterans Affairs, and the members of the Michigan Congressional  
16 delegation.