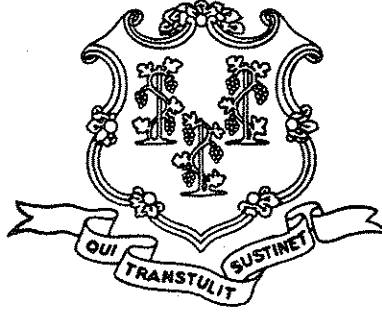


State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

Official Statement

*W*HEREAS, an estimated 300,000 service members in the United States have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress and 320,000 experience Traumatic Brain Injury; and

*W*HEREAS, it often takes an average of one year to receive a diagnosis for Post Traumatic Stress and or Traumatic Brain Injury, and there is an urgent need to train more mental health providers throughout the United States health care system to deliver evidence-based treatment to our service members and veterans; and

*W*HEREAS, the nation's focus on Post Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury and its impact on our returning service members' lives with the help and the guarantee of hope for a better future for our service members; and

*W*HEREAS, Post Traumatic Stress is a reaction to a traumatic event that involves re-experiencing the event through dreams, recollection, or flashbacks and can occur soon after the trauma or in a delayed onset months after; and

*W*HEREAS, Post Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury are life-altering and can prevent our returning service members from contributing to society at the level they once did because of myriad symptoms that can come and go unpredictably and vary in severity; and

*W*HEREAS, Post Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury are never completely symptom-free; those suffering with either of these disorders must fight against their impact in every area of their life and the nation must step up to give back to our veterans what they gave; and

*W*HEREAS, the nation as a whole is impacted when our returning service members are physically and mentally unable to work and support their families and must depend on government assistance to survive; and

*W*HEREAS, Stay Strong Nation is a non-profit, charitable organization and is the publisher of the Stay Strong anthem, message post cards and awareness ribbons that will be used to improve education, research, and treatment; and

*W*HEREAS, Stay Strong Nation is urging service members, their families, and the general public to join its efforts in November to walk, ride, climb, fly, sign, dance, or participate in an effort to bring awareness of the impact Post Traumatic Stress and Post Brain Injury can have; now

*T*HEREFORE, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do recognize the needs of these service members and hereby officially proclaim November 8-15, 2009, as

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS/TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Connecticut.

I urge all citizens to support the awareness efforts and to assist those individuals and families who deal with devastating disorder on a daily basis.



M. Jodi Rell
Governor