

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 33
 Subject Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Biological Treatment and Recovery

Referred to Convention Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, State resources can be used to harness Federal resources which will in turn rescue at-risk war veterans, improve the State’s budget and the State’s economy and completely alter the current trajectory of negative post-deployment outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Validating and deploying these treatment protocols under these rational and controlled conditions will result in the largest single improvement in public health of any action the State could take, and

WHEREAS, Medical treatment using oxygen, a non-patentable drug, is less expensive and more effective than any other current treatments being utilized for brain injuries or those suffering with PTSD by the federal, state or private medical system; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Government has paid for HBOT treatments for TBI or PTSD and for other medical conditions and is authorized to do so by Congress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion, Department of New York, in Convention assembled July 17, 18, 19, 2014 in Albany, New York that it respectfully request the Governor and Legislature of New York State to pass a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Biological Repair Treatment and Recovery Law.

FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE	
Approved _____ Rejected _____	_____ Adjutant Signature
Approved with Amendments _____	_____ County
Consolidated with _____	Below section to be completed when resolution is submitted from another authorized source.
Referred to Standing Committee on _____	R. Michael Suter, Chairman _____ Name
Received and Recorded _____	Resolutions Committee _____ Title
Other Action _____	
Signature _____ (Chairman)	

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WHEREAS, There has been a failure of military medicine’s primary mission: to keep the forces under their care as fit for duty as possible and conserve the manpower resources at the disposal of military command; and

WHEREAS, This failure to provide effective biological repair treatment for TBI and PTSD has placed an inordinate burden on state resources since each of these war casualties costs society an estimated \$60,000 per year in lost tax revenue, lost productivity, safety net and social services costs, incarceration, substance abuse and health expenditures; and

WHEREAS, A large portion of these costs are born by state and local government budgets; and

WHEREAS, There exists today a multifaceted crisis among war veterans in New York State and it is essential to begin immediate, controlled deployment of legally-available and ethically deliverable treatment; and

WHEREAS, Doing so publically will begin to arrest the crisis of suicidality, family disintegration, and hopelessness faced by many of the men and women who answered our nation’s call; and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of biological repair treatment or Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) for TBI and PTSD has been confirmed and published nationally in multicenter research studies sponsored and supported by the International Hyperbaric Medical Foundation and Louisiana State University; and

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(Chairman)	Resolutions Committee
	Title

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WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Public Health estimated in July 2011, 2.3 million service members had deployed to support Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation New Dawn (OND), 1,318,510 had left active duty and were eligible for VA health care, of which 645,491 had enrolled in VA health care; and

WHEREAS, The “signature wounds” of Iraq and Afghanistan are TBI and PTSD; and

WHEREAS, Mental disorders are the second largest frequency of diagnosis among returning OEF/OIF/OND service members which are currently estimated at 50.7 percent; and

WHEREAS, After 13 years of war, the Department of Defense (DOD) medical establishment and the VA’s medical establishment have consistently refused to provide known effective treatment for our nation’s war veteran population, either acutely in theater or after they return from the theater of operations; and

WHEREAS, The behavior of these organizations is reminiscent of the denial of the impact of Agent Orange exposure at the end of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress, DOD and VA leadership have made many attempts to correct behavior of these agencies, only to be repeatedly thwarted by bureaucratic maneuvering and infighting; and

<p>FOR CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE</p> <p>Approved _____ Rejected _____</p> <p>Approved with Amendments _____</p> <p>Consolidated with _____</p> <p>Referred to Standing Committee on _____</p> <hr/> <p>Received and Recorded _____</p> <p>Other Action _____</p> <p>Signature _____ (Chairman)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Adjutant Signature</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">County</p> <p>Below section to be completed when resolution is submitted from another authorized source.</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Michael R. Suter, Chairman Name</p> <p>_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rehabilitation Committee Title</p>
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