

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4310, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF GEORGIA**

At the end of title VII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 7___ . CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR GREATER**
2 **AWARENESS OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS**
3 **DISORDER.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
5 ings:

6 (1) The brave men and women of the United
7 States Armed Forces, who proudly serve the United
8 States, risk their lives to protect the freedom of the
9 United States and deserve the investment of every
10 possible resource to ensure their lasting physical,
11 mental, and emotional well-being.

12 (2) More than 2,400,000 members of the
13 Armed Forces have deployed overseas as part of
14 overseas contingency operations since the events of
15 September 11, 2001.

16 (3) One in five members who have returned
17 from deployment reported symptoms of post-trau-
18 matic stress disorder (PTSD).

1 (4) Just over ½ of the members have sought
2 treatment for PTSD symptoms.

3 (5) More than 90,000 members returning from
4 deployment to Operation Enduring Freedom or Op-
5 eration Iraqi Freedom are clinically diagnosed with
6 PTSD.

7 (6) The Armed Forces have sustained an oper-
8 ational tempo for a period of time unprecedented in
9 the history of the United States, with many mem-
10 bers deploying multiple times, placing them at high
11 risk of PTSD.

12 (7) Up to 10 percent of Operation Desert
13 Storm veterans, 30 percent of Vietnam veterans, and
14 8 percent of the general population of the United
15 States suffer or have suffered from PTSD.

16 (8) The Department of Veterans Affairs reports
17 that more than 476,515 veterans from all wars, ap-
18 proximately 8 percent of the total number of vet-
19 erans who accessed care, were treated for PTSD in
20 2011 alone.

21 (9) Many cases of PTSD remain unreported,
22 undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of aware-
23 ness about PTSD and the persistent stigma associ-
24 ated with mental health issues.

1 (10) PTSD significantly increases the risk of
2 depression, suicide, and drug- and alcohol-related
3 disorders and deaths, especially if left untreated.

4 (11) The Departments of Defense and Veterans
5 Affairs have made significant advances in the pre-
6 vention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the
7 symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain.

8 (12) About 1/2 of members and their spouses re-
9 port they are somewhat or not at all knowledgeable
10 about the signs and symptoms of PTSD.

11 (b) CONGRESSIONAL EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT.—In
12 light of the findings made in subsection (a), Congress—

13 (1) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Vet-
14 erans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to edu-
15 cate service members, veterans, the families of serv-
16 ice members and veterans, and the public about the
17 causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic
18 stress disorder (PTSD); and

19 (2) supports the creation of an advisory com-
20 mission on PTSD to coordinate the efforts of the
21 Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Af-
22 fairs, and other executive departments and agencies
23 for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of
24 PTSD.

