

**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) Many cases of PTSD remain unreported,  
17          undiagnosed, and untreated due to a lack of aware-  
18          ness about PTSD and the persistent stigma associ-  
19          ated with mental health issues.

20          (9) PTSD significantly increases the risk of de-  
21          pression, suicide, and drug- and alcohol-related dis-  
22          orders and deaths, especially if left untreated.

23          (10) The Departments of Defense and Veterans  
24          Affairs have made significant advances in the pre-

1           vention, diagnosis, and treatment of PTSD and the  
2           symptoms of PTSD, but many challenges remain.

3           (11) About  $\frac{1}{2}$  of members and their spouses re-  
4           port they are somewhat or not at all knowledgeable  
5           about the signs and symptoms of PTSD.

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

8           (1) supports the efforts of the Secretary of Vet-  
9           erans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to edu-  
10          cate service members, veterans, the families of serv-  
11          ice members and veterans, and the public about the  
12          causes, symptoms, and treatment of post-traumatic  
13          stress disorder (PTSD); and

14          (2) supports the creation of an advisory com-  
15          mission on PTSD to coordinate the efforts of the  
16          Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Af-  
17          fairs, and other executive departments and agencies  
18          for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of  
19          PTSD.

