



**2018 New York State YMCA
Youth And Government**

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 5

Bill #: AF-36

1 **Sponsors:** Keelan Crowley, Francesca Fornuto, Anne Kosanke, Natalie Rivoli

2

3 **An Act To:**

4 To Amend article 38 of NYS Public Health Law § 3802 to add PTSD screening to
5 veteran health care.

6 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and***
7 ***Assembly do enact as follows:***

8 **Purpose:**

9 To assure that veterans with PTSD are properly taken care of after their service.

10 **Summary of Provisions**

11 **Section 1: Definitions**

12 **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder(PTSD):** a condition of persistent mental and
13 emotional stress occurring as a result of injury or severe psychological shock,
14 typically involving disturbance of sleep and constant vivid recall of the experience,
15 with dulled responses to others and to the outside world.

16 **Section 2: Provisions**

17 § 3803. Veterans health care information program. 1. There is hereby
18 created within the department the veterans health care information
19 program (referred to in this section as the "program"), which shall
20 provide information on health issues associated with military duty,
21 including but not limited to Agent Orange, Gulf War Syndromes, toxic
22 materials or harmful physical agents such as, depleted uranium, and
23 hepatitis C, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Screening for veterans, their
24 surviving spouses and health care
25 providers.

26 2. The program shall include but not be limited to the following
27 elements:

28 (a) public service announcements;

29 (b) establishment of a toll-free telephone hotline to provide
30 information regarding healthcare providers and treatment centers with
31 expertise in illnesses associated with military duty; and

32 (c) establish a veterans health information clearinghouse online.

33 (d) mandatory screening for PTSD from the Veterans Affairs office of NYS within
34 three months of return

35 3. In exercising any of his or her powers under this section, the
36 commissioner shall consult with appropriate health care professionals,
37 providers, veterans or organizations representing them, the division of
38 veterans' affairs, the federal department of veterans' affairs and the



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39 United States defense department.

40 4. The commissioner may make rules and regulations necessary and
41 appropriate for the implementation of this section.

42 **Justification:**

43 As an American, it is known that no value can be placed on the service for past and
44 present military members. However, they often do not get enough recognition for
45 all their sacrifice. Anywhere from 11 to 20 percent of veterans that served in Iraq
46 and Afghanistan suffer from diagnosed and undiagnosed ptsd. This is a large
47 amount seeing that this would be an estimated 500,000 veterans suffering from the
48 disorder. 22 soldiers die each day from suicide. There are more casualties from the
49 soldiers pulling the trigger on themselves than on the battlefield. The screening
50 costs around 150 dollars and this is the least anyone can do to thank the veterans.
51 As this may be considered a lot of money to cover for, once again the cost of
52 service is priceless.

53 **Fiscal Implications:**

54 Each screening will cost 150 dollars per person for each screening and there is
55 approximately 921,400 veterans in New York State.

56 **Effective Date:**

57 This bill will be enacted one year after passage.