



March 4, 2014

Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy and Members of the Committee on
Veteran's Affairs,

As President (Dr. Barbara S. Bunk) and Director of Professional Affairs (Dr. Traci
Cipriano) of the Connecticut Psychological Association (CPA) we are herein
testifying **in support of *RB No. 5393 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.***

This bill proposes to develop and extend mental health resources to members of the
Connecticut National Guard and their families. As practicing psychologists, it has
become all too clear that Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring
Freedom (OEF), the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, have thrust the United States
into uncharted territory regarding the potential and actual mental health treatment
needs for military personnel and their families. The distress and trauma that our
service men and women were exposed to in war is nearly unfathomable by the
civilian. One of the undersigned (Bunk) is the mother of a Marine twice deployed
in OEF (3rd Battalion 4th Marines, 2010, 2012); and knows firsthand the stress and
distress of family members during deployment and afterwards. Finding
appropriate resources upon his or her return is essential to the serviceperson's re-
integration into the community and into family life. Outreach, education, and
treatment should indeed be available to all military families, including the National
Guard from Connecticut who served.

We urge you to support ***RB No. 5393 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES FOR MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD.***

We thank you for your efforts on behalf of veterans and all the citizens of the State
of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Barbara S. Bunk, Ph.D.

Traci Cipriano, Ph.D.