

In support of SB 691 establishing a crises line for service members in CT.

Dear Committee Members,

As a Firefighter/EMT on the front lines I can see a definite need for this support of our service members right here in Connecticut.

We are often in contact with these members at very stressful and emotional times. That is either they are in crises due to addictions and/or reacclimation to society problems related to combat induced PTSD. Police, Fire, and EMS agencies are often their first social contact due to domestics, assaults, self injury, suicide, or medical emergency caused by their addictions. With all the knowledge we have in these areas we need to be in the business of preventing these problems instead of reacting to them.

These people have given their heart, soul, and minds for our Country and its Freedoms. We need to be there for them and have services in place. You can never have too many access points to help when a person is crying out and is or feels alone. No veteran should ever feel they are alone.

Monetary costs for a crisis line will be more than compensated by decreasing the need for public agency, PD,FD, EMS, reactionary response to the problems created to individuals, families and society by Combat PTSD reactions.

Substantial emotional and physical cost will be reduced to the individual, their families, and members of society around them. Not to mention a reduction in stress and PTSD on our first responders.

Thank you,

Robert W. Burdick  
Meriden, CT