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Governor Rhoden Proclaims June as PTSI Awareness Month

Sioux Falls, SD – Governor Larry Rhoden, in partnership with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA), has officially proclaimed June as **“Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Month”** to recognize the invisible wounds experienced by veterans, service members, first responders, and trauma survivors.

The proclamation aims to promote understanding, reduce stigma, and reinforce that healing is possible. By using the term “injury” instead of “disorder,” the state highlights that trauma responses are treatable and not a sign of weakness.

“Seeking help is a sign of strength,” said SDDVA Secretary Jeremiah Schneider. “By talking openly about PTSI and connecting people to care, we remind individuals they don’t have to face it alone.”

The SDDVA encourages citizens to wear teal or black ribbons and reach out to those who may be struggling. For support, call or text 988, contact us at 605.333.6869, or find your County or Tribal Veterans Service Officer at <https://vetaffairs.sd.gov>.