

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-third General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R22-1020.01 Andrew Webster x2044

SJR22-010

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Cooke and Hinrichsen,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22-010

101 **CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY**
102 **AS A TREATMENT OPTION FOR RESIDENTS OF THE STATE OF**
103 **COLORADO EXPERIENCING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY OR**
104 **POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.**

1 WHEREAS, Many residents of the state of Colorado experience
2 Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).
3 These conditions impact active military service members and first
4 responders and veterans of these vocations in large numbers, as well as
5 the general population; and

6 WHEREAS, It is believed that these conditions contribute to the
7 high rate of suicide, drug addiction, alcoholism, and mental health issues
8 among these vulnerable individuals; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, Congress enacted the "Commander John Scott
2 Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019" as a
3 way to "improve mental health care provided by the Department of
4 Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes". Congress has mandated that the
5 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) consider making Hyperbaric
6 Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) treatment more readily available to VA patients
7 and that the VA conduct a comprehensive study and pilot program and
8 prepare a report on the "efficacy and effectiveness of hyperbaric oxygen
9 therapy for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic
10 brain injury"; and

11 WHEREAS, HBOT has shown potential to be a safe and effective
12 treatment for those experiencing TBI and PTSD, particularly when HBOT
13 is integrated with PTSD counseling. The state of Colorado is home to one
14 of the leading pioneers in this type of treatment; now, therefore,

15 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-third General*
16 *Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives*
17 *concurring herein:*

18 (1) That we, the members of the Colorado General Assembly, find
19 that the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the state of
20 Colorado will benefit from increased awareness and availability of HBOT
21 as a treatment for TBI and PTSD.

22 (2) That it should be the aim of the state to provide for its
23 residents all viable options to combat the debilitating effects of TBI and
24 PTSD and improve their quality of life. We therefore strongly support the
25 efforts of Congress to study and review the efficacy of HBOT for treating
26 the serious and life-altering effects of TBI and PTSD.

27 (3) That we strongly encourage the medical community in
28 Colorado to become informed about HBOT and the efforts of Congress
29 to actively study this treatment. We also encourage the medical
30 community in Colorado to cooperate and coordinate with each other and
31 with the VA to the extent possible by sharing data and conducting
32 research on this cutting-edge treatment.

33 (4) That we affirm our commitment to all residents of Colorado,
34 our active military service members and first responders, and veterans of
35 these vocations in particular to be a national leader in providing
36 comprehensive mental health and medical care options so that they can

1 maximize their participation in the social and economic mainstream of
2 community life.

3 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent
4 to the Colorado division of veterans affairs and the Colorado board of
5 health in the department of public health and environment.