

SUBJECT: Establishing clinical care and research center for combat-related PTSD

COMMITTEE: Defense and Veterans' Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Gutierrez, Blanco, Arévalo, Cain, Flynn, Lambert, Wilson  
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Nancy Dickinson; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ricardo Lopez-Guerra, Boeing Aerospace; Lauren Kreeger, League of Women Voters of Texas; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations; James Cunningham, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations and Texas Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America; Michelle Romero, Texas Medical Association; Denise Rose, Texas Occupational Therapy Association)

Against — None

On — Katherine Dondanville, Paul Fowler, and Stacey Young-McCaughan, UT Health San Antonio

DIGEST: CSHB 2571 would require the board of regents of The University of Texas System (UT) to establish the National Center for Warrior Resiliency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA). The center would research issues regarding the detection, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder and comorbid conditions. The center also would provide clinical care to enhance the psychological resiliency of military personnel and veterans.

The UT System's board would employ the center's staff, provide the center's operating budget, and choose a site for the center at UTHSCSA. An employee of the center would be a UT System employee.

The bill would allow the board to solicit, accept, and administer gifts and

grants from any public or private source for the center's use and benefit.

The center could collaborate with public and private entities, including institutions of higher education, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense, and the National Institutes of Health, to perform the center's research functions.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

CSHB 2571 would establish the National Center for Warrior Resiliency at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA) as a way to increase research on preventing and treating combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). UTHSCSA currently provides three- to four-week treatment programs for PTSD within its South Texas Research Organizational Network Guiding Studies on Trauma and Resilience (STRONG STAR) Consortium. Authorizing the UT System's board to seek funding from public and private entities would help UTHSCSA expand its clinical trials and treatment studies and provide training for health care providers who interact with active military members and veterans suffering from PTSD.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

**NOTES:**

CSHB 2571 differs from the bill as filed in that the committee substitute would require the University of Texas Board of Regents, rather than UTHSCSA, to establish and operate the National Center for Warrior Resiliency.