

Date of Hearing: August 21, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 111 (Sharp-Collins) – As Introduced August 18, 2025

SUBJECT: Military Sexual Trauma Awareness Day.

SUMMARY: Proclaims September 25, 2025, as Military Sexual Trauma Awareness Day; and, acknowledges the profound impact of military sexual trauma, commits to breaking the stigma surrounding it, and reaffirms its decision to improving support systems for military sexual trauma survivors and their families. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Military sexual trauma (MST) encompasses sexual assault or repeated, threatening sexual harassment that occurs during military service. MST affects both women and men in the Armed Forces, with research indicating that approximately 1 in 3 women and 1 in 50 men experience MST during service, whether active duty, Reserve, or National Guard.
- 2) MST is an experience rather than a diagnosis or mental health condition, and can result in significant and long-lasting impacts on survivors, including heightened risks of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and physical health issues, with an increased risk of suicide.
- 3) MST survivors who identify as members of marginalized and minority groups may face additional stressors and barriers to engaging in MST-related care, which may compound the trauma and hinder their access to necessary support.
- 4) MST survivors often encounter feelings of being unsupported, disrespected, or retraumatized when seeking care, which can exacerbate their psychological distress, and elevate the risk of suicide, highlighting the urgent need for reforms to ensure they receive compassionate and respectful treatment.
- 5) There is a critical need to address the stigma associated with MST and to provide comprehensive support that considers the needs of survivors, their families, and the broader military community.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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