



**Office of
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

For Immediate Release

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**Representative Kane supports continuing education bill to
address PTSD and other veterans' health issues**

BOSTON – State Representative Hannah Kane, R-Shrewsbury, is supporting legislation establishing a continuing education program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School to address deployment-related health conditions among Massachusetts veterans, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

House Bill 4177, An Act relative to the training of higher education counselors on deployment-related health conditions, was engrossed by the House of Representatives on a vote of 157-0 on November 6.

The bill would require clinical and non-clinical counselors at Massachusetts' public colleges and universities to complete the continuing education program, including staff and faculty in admissions offices, counseling centers, health services and academic advising centers. In addition to receiving training to help recognize the symptoms of depression, suicidal thoughts, substance use disorders, PTSD and other deployment-related health conditions, counselors will also receive information on the resources available for veterans and service members and how to provide referrals for treatment.

Representative Kane said the continuing education requirement will benefit both active-duty service members and returning veterans who are pursuing a college degree.

The bill now heads to the Senate for further action.

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