

Mr. Chairmen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tyler Tucker, and I am currently a fire inspector at the Dickinson Fire Department. I am here today to speak on behalf of those who bear the unseen scars of their service and to urge you to pass the PTSD bill for mental health injuries.

As a firefighter, I've witnessed firsthand the toll our work can take—not just on our bodies but also on our minds. Whether pulling someone from a burning building, responding to a tragic accident, or comforting a family in their darkest moment, these experiences don't leave us when the job is done. They stay with us, often in ways that can deeply affect our mental health.

PTSD, or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, is not limited to first responders like myself. It can affect anyone who has faced trauma—teachers, nurses, doctors, veterans, and countless others in our communities. This bill is not just for firefighters, paramedics, or police officers. It is for anyone who struggles with the weight of their experiences and needs healing support.

Mental health injuries are just as real and debilitating as physical ones. When a firefighter breaks a leg on the job, no one questions the need for medical care. When a nurse's back gives out from years of lifting patients, no one hesitates to support their recovery. PTSD should be no different. Passing this bill will ensure that all who struggle with mental health injuries, regardless of their occupation or background, have access to the resources and care they need to recover.

This legislation sends a powerful message: that mental health matters, that we value the well-being of our neighbors, and that no one should suffer in silence because of the stigma surrounding mental health. By passing this bill, you are standing with all those who dedicate their lives to serving others and showing that we, as a society, are committed to their healing and resilience.

Your support will save lives and bring hope to those who need it most. I urge you to pass this compassionate and much-needed legislation for the sake of every individual and family it will touch.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to this vital issue.

Tyler Tucker

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