

HCR 3011

Many sessions ago the North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council was asked to support Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy. I recall the small hearing room was packed. During the testimony I came to believe that this form of treatment could be the “miracle” in the treatment of PTSD and TBI.

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy has revealed incredible possibilities for healing. Not only for muscle injuries, joints and wounds, but exceptional progress has been made in the treatment of neurocognitive conditions. Tremendous results have been noted in patients with PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, concussion, depression, anxiety and many other conditions. Mild HBOT has been shown to be the most effective for neurocognitive conditions. This is an incredible form of treatment that has been providing consistently positive results.

The NDVLC strongly urges a **do pass** of this resolution.

Thank you Jim Nelson Legislative Director NDVLC

Senate Human Services-Committee
69th Legislative Session
Senator Judy Lee-Chair

Chairman Lee and Senate Human Services Committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 1090.

Intent of this bill:

Urge Congress to provide veterans with medical coverage through the US Veterans Affairs for hyperbaric oxygenation therapy (HBOT) in the treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other service-connected conditions.

Need/Background for bill:

HBOT has been proven to successfully treat TBI, Concussions, PTSD and many other wounds and conditions by many clinical trials and studies in the US and is internationally accepted as effective treatment (see attached). HBOT has been US FDA approved for many other conditions and there are over a dozen HBOT chambers in North Dakota treating these conditions through private pay.

ND legislation has passed this resolution during previous sessions; however, the Federal VA has not yet adopted this life changing treatment. We must continue to encourage our Congress to approve the use of HBOT.

Senators Hoeven and Cramer have encouraged US Congress to approve the VA to provide HBOT to our veterans.

Outcome of bill:

Veterans suffering from TBI, PTSD and other treatable conditions can receive the relief they need through HBOT.

Fiscal note:

None

Thank you for your consideration.
Lonnie Wangen Commissioner-NDDVA

Hyperbaric Treatment Indications

FDA Approved:

- Air or gas embolism
- Carbon monoxide poisoning and carbon monoxide poisoning complicated by cyanide poisoning
- Clostridial myositis and myonecrosis (gas gangrene)
- Crush injury, compartment syndrome, and other acute traumatic ischemias
- Decompression sickness
- Enhanced healing of selected problem wounds
- Exceptional blood loss anemia
- Necrotizing soft tissue infections
- Osteomyelitis (refractory)
- Delayed radiation injury (soft tissue and bony necrosis)
- Skin grafts and flaps (compromised)
- Thermal burns
- Intracranial abscess

Internationally Accepted Indications:

- ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)
- Alzheimer's
- Arthritis (Rheumatoid, Osteoarthritis)
- Bell's Palsy
- Bone Fractures
- Brain Injury (Traumatic/Hypoxic/Anoxic)
- Burns
- Cancer
- Dementia
- Femoral Head Necrosis
- Fibromyalgia
- Fungal Infection
- Hearing Loss
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Crohn's Disease, Ulcerative Colitis)
- Liver Damage
- Lupus
- Lyme Disease
- Memory Loss
- Migraine
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Macular Degeneration
- Retinal Detachment
- Retinal Artery/Vein Occlusion
- Retinitis Pigmentosa
- Parkinson's Disease
- Peripheral Nerve Damage
- RSD (Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy)
- Rheumatic Diseases
- Spider Bite
- Sports Injury
- Concussion
- Stroke
- Minimizing Surgical Complications
- Wound Healing