

March 13, 2025

Here are the talking points I would share and speak about on Oregon HB 3460 and request you include into the record but not limited to the following:

The DoD has approved Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) for blast injury and is contained in the <u>1990 Textbook of Military</u> <u>Medicine and may be viewed here.</u>

There are 10 states who have enacted HBOT legislation since 2014, seven have funded over \$33 million for HBOT treatments and <u>details may be viewed here.</u>

There is a group of MDs across the country who have executed the National Advocacy for HBOT for mild TBI Medical Doctor Affidavit and <u>may be viewed here</u>. The group includes a Neurologist, General Surgeon, Emergency Room MD, etc.

Five of the major national Veteran Service Organizations have provided their national written endorsement of HBOT for mTBI and <u>may be viewed here.</u>

We are in two major Veteran epidemics, a suicide epidemic with over 151,000+ suicides and the <u>summary may be viewed</u> <u>here</u>. The second is the opioid epidemic and its <u>summary may be viewed here</u>.

In 2024 we submitted a package to the US Congress in support of Senate Bill S. 4109, the Blast Overpressure Safety Act, <u>all 13</u> <u>documents may be viewed here</u>, which include the same documents herein above.

The current VA treatment 23-year protocol and care for Veterans with <u>*TBI/PTSD is NOT working*</u>. The following recently developed chart by TreatNOW illustrates our point herein attached. The VA has expended \$3.3 billion on suicide prevention since 2015 while the trend line for suicides continues to escalate now totaling over 151,000 Veterans lives. (see attached).

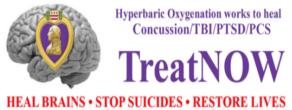
We have successfully treated over 12,500 Veterans since 2008 with HBOT, one suicide. The successful treatments include over 600 Navy SEALS through the <u>Americasmightywarriors.org</u> non-profit which is owned by Debbie Lee, Gold Star mother of Marc Lee, the first SEAL KIA in Iraq in 2006.

Now totaling 18 clinical trials and 27 studies demonstrating safety and efficacy with compelling medical evidence.

Dr. Paul Harch, MD, and one the country's leading medical researchers on HBOT, published and peer reviewed on March 17, 2002 in the Frontiers of Neurology, one the leading medical journals, <u>Systematic Review and Dosage Analysis: Hyperbaric</u> <u>Oxygen Therapy Efficacy in Mild Traumatic brain Injury Persistent Post concussion Syndrome</u>, a 11 of 27 trail data summary review demonstrating safety and efficacy of the HBOT treatment protocol. Dr. Harch peer reviewed and published paper on May 30, 2024 of 8 of 27 trail summary of HBOT for PTSD may be viewed here.

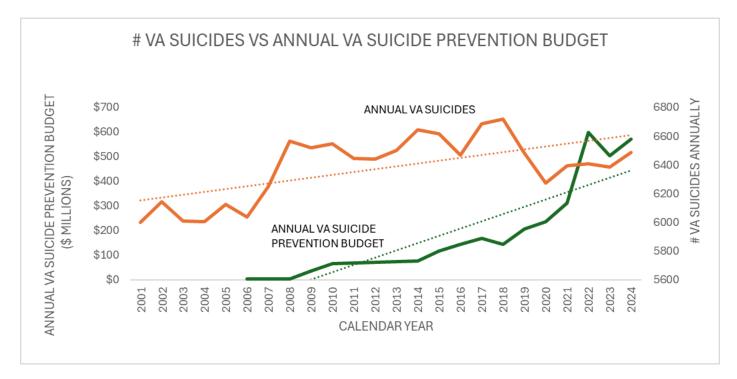
When you couple of these events, publications, medical evidence, and support, it leaves one question, why are we not providing this safe, effective and highly cost saving treatment for our Veterans.?





A 23-Year Trend Analysis of VA Suicides and Suicide Prevention Budgetary Expenditures

The VA Suicides and Suicide Prevention budget reflect escalating trend rates in suicides and cost The VA has expended \$3.3 billion since 2015 in taxpayer dollars for suicide prevention with zero impact The average cost of \$89K per Veteran suicide cost for suicide prevention is not effective A change to the VA suicide treatment protocol of TBI/PTSD Veteran "palliate the symptoms" versus treatment of the invisible brain wounds is required NOW



Footnotes

Note 1: Annual suicide prevention budget from 2001 to 2005 could not be identified in any VA submitted budgets to US Congress

Note 2: 2006 and 2007 VA suicide prevention budget is reported in mental health total budget numbers and not as separate lineitem suicide prevention budget

Note 3: Total annual VA suicides directly from <u>VA.gov</u> website but only includes 49% of enrolled Veterans in VHA, 51% of Veterans not enrolled in VHA

Note 4: The National Guard and Reserve suicides are not included in this chart from 2019 forward as the VA stopped reporting these in the national suicide report to US Congress

Note 5: VA budget numbers extracted from VA submitted budgets to US Congress 2006-2024