

Diagnosing PTSD

The Boston Globe

July 17, 2010

RE: THE Bloomberg News article "[Obama eases rules for veterans seeking PTSD aid](#)" on July 11.

As a combat veteran of the Lebanon conflict from 1983 to 1984, I have always been mystified at the Department of Veterans Affairs forcing us to jump through hoops to prove that our personal experience in conflict troubled us emotionally, resulting in post-traumatic stress disorder. By finally making major changes to the type of data each claimant needs to recall and provide, the VA will help insure that tens of thousands more valid claims may be approved for care and overdue compensation.

Sadly, the VA's severe shortage of doctorate-certified psychologists has led to too many non-federally recognized, lesser-paid social workers being brought in instead, which serves to compound the problem. Too many VA waiting rooms already overflow with too many veterans seeking mental health assistance. With the possible quadrupling of future patients to serve, Congress needs to finally fund the hiring of 10,000 federally recognized psychologists with doctorates.

As the Obama administration brings our Afghanistan and Iraq troops and their supporting personnel home, our nation will be stunned to see the harm that those of them with PTSD bring to their awaiting families, communities, and companies.

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