



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Senator Carlucci Holds Hearing on
Veterans Mental Health**

(New City, NY) Today, the New York State Senate Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, chaired by Senator David Carlucci (D-Rockland/Westchester) held a veterans mental health hearing on Wednesday, November 6th at the Clarkstown Town Hall in New City.

The hearing helped the Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities establish and propose comprehensive legislation to provide veterans with improved mental health treatment, ways to eliminate stigma and increase access to care.

“We have a silent crisis among our veterans,” **said Senator Carlucci.** “According to the Department of Veteran’s Affairs we are losing, on average, 20 veterans a day to suicide. We know PTSD can be a contributing factor and the State has increased funding to the Joseph P. Dwyer program to address PTSD. We must also establish what more we can do to tailor our suicide prevention methods for veterans.”

The hearing gathered testimony from experts in the mental health field, those who work with veterans every day, veterans who are dealing with mental health challenges and other lawmakers including Senator Thomas O'Mara and Senator Joseph Addabbo.

Written testimony will be accepted until Saturday, November 30th, 2019. To submit written testimony please email John Koury at jkoury@nysenate.gov.