



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**

**2018**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a form of acquired brain injury caused by a bump, blow, jolt, or penetration to the head that disrupts the normal function of the brain; each year, TBI contribute to a substantial number of deaths and cases of permanent disability; and

**WHEREAS**, TBI is the cause or related cause of approximately 30 percent of all injury deaths in the United States; in 2014 and 2015, more than 150,000 people in North Carolina sustained TBI; and

**WHEREAS**, falls are the leading cause of brain-related injuries among those hospitalized with a TBI in North Carolina; acquired brain injury can also be the result of motor vehicle crashes, assaults, and sports or occupational injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, traumatic brain injury has been called the signature injury of servicemembers and veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; treatment is often complicated by high rates of PTSD and suicide, presenting new challenges for members of the military and their families in our state and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, during 2001 – 2005, children and youth aged 5 – 18 accounted for 2.4 million sports-related emergency department visits annually; it is estimated that as many as 3.8 million concussions occur in the United States every year during competitive sports and recreational activities; and

**WHEREAS**, concussions can be difficult to detect as they do not necessarily result in loss of consciousness; as many as 50 percent of concussions may go unreported, causing people to unknowingly put themselves at high risk to sustain further injury and potentially fatal second-impact syndrome; and

**WHEREAS**, an injury that happens in an instant can bring a lifetime of physical, cognitive and behavioral challenges; early and adequate access to care will greatly increase overall quality of life, and can enable individuals to return to their homes, schools, work and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services; the Brain Injury Advisory Council; and the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina have partnered to promote public awareness of the extent, causes, consequences, treatment and prevention of traumatic brain injury, and to make prevention and safety measures part of the culture in North Carolina;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March, 2018, as “**BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
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Roy Cooper  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-sixth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.