



# *State of North Carolina*

*Roy Cooper*  
*Governor*

**BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**

**2017**

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

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, traumatic brain injury is a serious, national public health epidemic resulting in long-term or permanent disability or death; a traumatic brain injury is caused by a bump, blow, jolt or penetration of the head that disrupts the normal function of the brain; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 201,000 North Carolinians are currently living with the long term effects of a brain injury, with falls a leading cause of brain-related injuries; they can also be the result of motor vehicle crashes, assaults, sporting related injuries, or occupational related injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, traumatic brain injury has been the signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and treatment is often complicated by high rates of PTSD and suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, 30 percent of sports-related brain injuries happen among youth 5-19 years of age, and, because the signs of brain injury are not always well recognized, youth may put themselves at risk for another injury and potentially fatal second-impact syndrome; it is estimated that as many as 3.8 million concussions occur in the U.S. each year during competitive sports and recreational activities; and as many as 50 percent of concussions may go unreported; and

**WHEREAS**, while prevention is the best cure, early and adequate access to care greatly increases overall quality of life, and will enable individuals to return to home, school, work and their community; and

**WHEREAS**, March has been designated as National Brain Injury Awareness Month to promote public awareness on the extent, causes, consequences, treatment and prevention of traumatic brain injury;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Roy Cooper, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2017, as "**BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



*Roy Cooper*  
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 second day of March in the year of our Lord two-thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.