



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, an estimated more than 1.7 million Americans sustain traumatic brain injury (TBI) every year, and approximately 5.3 million Americans live with a TBI-related disability; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2 percent of the population has sustained a TBI; in North Carolina, this is approximately 208,000 people; and

WHEREAS, TBI results from an external force such as a significant blow, jolt, or penetrating injury to the brain and can lead to a lifetime of physical, cognitive, and/or behavioral challenges; the leading causes of TBI are slips and falls, motor vehicle accidents, and assaults, which contribute to the more than 150 estimated deaths due to TBI that occur in the United States every day; and

WHEREAS, between 11 and 23 percent of American soldiers who served in Iraq or Afghanistan have suffered a TBI, and treatment is often complicated by higher rates of post-traumatic stress injury, depression, anxiety, chronic pain, and suicidal ideation; and

WHEREAS, according to the Brain Injury Association of America, the opioid epidemic has produced a new term, "toxic brain injury," which describes the results of oxygen deprivation on the brain caused by prolonged substance misuse and nonfatal overdose; and

WHEREAS, some reports estimate that more than 10 percent of all contact-sport athletes sustain a concussion yearly, and that as many as 50 percent of all concussions go unreported due in part to a lack of understanding of the signs and dangers of brain injury; and

WHEREAS, almost 80,000 people in North Carolina will sustain a TBI this year, and many survivors will be left permanently disabled; public awareness and understanding of the dangers, prevention, and treatment of these injuries are critical to help protect the people of our state; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the North Carolina Brain Injury Advisory Council, the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina (BIANC), and other stakeholders provide awareness, education, prevention, training, and services to North Carolinians living with TBI and their families, health care professionals, and others statewide; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages people to support and advocate for those affected by TBI in our communities; for more information about awareness month activities and TBI in our state, visit www.bianc.net and <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/disability-services/traumatic-brain-injury>;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March, 2019, as "**BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.




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 February in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.