

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**

**2020**

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

**A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, an estimated more than 2.8 million Americans sustain traumatic brain injury (TBI) every year and approximately 5.3 million Americans live with a TBI-related disability; and

**WHEREAS**, TBI is a form of acquired brain injury caused by external force from a significant blow, jolt, or penetrating injury to the brain that can result in a lifetime of physical, emotional, cognitive, and/or behavioral challenges; long-term or permanent disability; or death; and

**WHEREAS**, the most common causes of TBI include slips and falls, motor vehicle accidents, collisions, assaults, and occupational or sports-related injuries; 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**, active duty and reserve servicemembers are at increased risk for sustaining TBI; 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**, more than 80,000 people in North Carolina will sustain a TBI this year, and many survivors will be left with a permanent disability; public awareness and understanding of the dangers, prevention, and treatment of these injuries and effects on the family 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 [bianc.net](http://bianc.net) and [www.ncdhhs.gov/assistance/disability-services/traumatic-brain-injury](http://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, 2020, 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 twentieth day of February in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.