



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**

**2021**

**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 external force such as a significant blow, jolt, or penetrating injury to the brain that can lead to a lifetime of physical, emotional, cognitive, and/or behavioral challenges; long-term or permanent disability; or death; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated more than 2.8 million Americans sustain TBI every year and approximately 5.3 million Americans live with a TBI-related disability; the leading causes of TBI are falls, motor vehicle accidents, and assaults; 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**, active duty and reserve service members are at increased risk for sustaining TBI; between 11 and 23 percent of American soldiers who served in Iraq or Afghanistan suffered 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 North Carolinians 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 [ncdhhs.gov/assistance/disability-services/traumatic-brain-injury](http://ncdhhs.gov/assistance/disability-services/traumatic-brain-injury);

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March, 2021, 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 fifth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.