

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** an acquired brain injury is any injury to the brain that is not hereditary, congenital, degenerative, or induced by birth trauma; and
- WHEREAS,** a traumatic brain injury (TBI) is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to, or penetration of, the head that disrupts the normal function of the brain; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 3.5 million children and adults sustain an acquired brain injury each year, but the total incidence is unknown because these injuries can be overlooked or under-reported; and
- WHEREAS,** more than 60,000 South Carolinians are currently living with the long-term effects of a brain injury; and
- WHEREAS,** while falls are a leading cause of brain-related injuries in our state and nation, they can also be the result of motor vehicle crashes, assaults, sports-related injuries, work-related injuries, or opioid overdoses; and
- WHEREAS,** traumatic brain injury has been a signature injury of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and treatment is often complicated by high rates of PTSD and suicide, presenting new challenges for members of the military and their families; and
- WHEREAS,** an estimated 1.6 to 3.8 million mild traumatic brain injuries, often called concussions, occur in the United States each year during competitive sports and recreational activities; and
- WHEREAS,** 30 percent of sports-related injuries occur among youth 5 to 19 years of age and, because the signs of brain injury are not always recognized, youth may put themselves at risk for another injury and potentially-fatal second-impact syndrome; and
- WHEREAS,** a brain injury that happens in an instant can cause a lifetime of physical, cognitive, and behavioral challenges.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2018 as

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about the causes, prevention, and treatment of acquired brain injuries and the importance of early and adequate intervention to an improved quality of life for individuals who have sustained a brain injury.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

**HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**