

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** acquired brain injury is often overlooked and underfunded and affects thousands of South Carolinians each year; 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 172,000 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, occupational-related injuries, or opioid overdoses; and
- WHEREAS,** South Carolina has approximately 397,649 Veterans, including 63,882 military retirees, as well as approximately 68,493 Department of Defense personnel residing in the state; 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,** 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 well-recognized, youth may put themselves at risk for another injury and potentially-fatal second-impact syndrome; and
- WHEREAS,** as many as 50 percent of mild traumatic brain injuries go unreported or undetected; and
- WHEREAS,** an injury that happens in an instant can cause a lifetime of physical, cognitive, and behavioral challenges; and
- WHEREAS,** early and adequate intervention, especially cognitive rehabilitation, can greatly increase the quality of life and enable individuals with brain injury to return to their homes, schools, work, or communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2024 as

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to help raise awareness of the extent, consequences, causes, treatments, and prevention of acquired brain injuries.



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

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA