



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, acquired brain injury is often overlooked, and affects thousands of Alabamians 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 6,000 Alabamians sustained a TBI in 2021; and

WHEREAS, falls are a leading cause of brain-related injuries in Alabama, but can also be the result of motor vehicle crashes, assaults, sports-related injuries, occupational-related injuries or opioid overdoses; and

WHEREAS, TBI is a frequent but under-recognized condition co-occurring with substance use disorders and mental illness; and

WHEREAS, TBI has been a significant injury of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Treatment is often complicated by high rates of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and suicide, presenting new challenges for members of the military and their families in the state; and

WHEREAS, 30 percent of sports-related injuries happen among youth ages five through 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

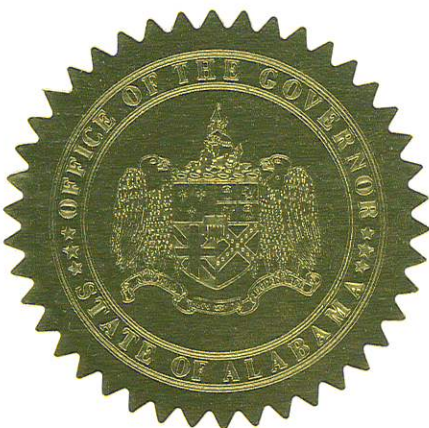
WHEREAS, early and adequate intervention, especially cognitive rehabilitation, will greatly increase the quality of life and enable individuals with brain injury to return to home, school, work, or their communities; and

WHEREAS, March has been designated as National Brain Injury Awareness Month to promote awareness of the extent, consequences, causes, treatments and prevention of acquired brain injuries;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim March 2022,
as

Brain Injury Awareness Month

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 9th day of February 2022.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor