A Proclamation

Whereas, Acquired brain injury is often overlooked and underfunded, and affects thousands of Massachusetts residents each year; and

Whereas, A traumatic brain injury 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 67,000 Massachusetts residents sustain non-fatal traumatic brain injuries each year; and

Whereas, Falls are a leading cause of brain-related injuries in Massachusetts; they can also be the result of motor vehicle crashes, assaults, sports-related injuries, occupational-related injuries, or opioid overdoses; and

Whereas, Massachusetts has approximately 4,000 active military personnel and more than 325,000 veterans residing in the state; and

Whereas, Traumatic brain injury has been the signature injury of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, treatment is often complicated by high rates of PTSD and suicide, presenting new challenges for member of the military and their families in the state; and

Whereas, 30 percent of sports-related injuries happen among youth 5 and 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, An estimated 1.6-3.8 million mild traumatic injuries, often called concussions, occur in the United States per year during competitive sports and recreational activities; 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; and

Whereas, The Brain Injury Association of America and Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts are dedicated to Changing Minds about Brain Injury.

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim March, 2019, to be,

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-second day of February, in the year two thousand and nineteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-second.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

KARYN E. POLITO
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts