**Whereas,** acquired brain injury is often overlooked and underfunded, and affects thousands of <STATE AUDIENCE (E.G., TEXANS)> 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 <NUMBER OF> <STATE AUDIENCE (E.G., TEXANS)> are currently living with the long-term effects of a brain injury, and

**Whereas,** falls are a leading cause of brain-related injuries in <STATE NAME>; they can also be the result of motor vehicle crashes, assaults, sports-related injuries, occupational-related injuries, or opioid overdoses; and

**Whereas,** <STATE> has approximately <NUMBER OF MILITARY> active military personnel and more than <NUMBER> 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 members of the military and their families in the state; and

**Whereas,** 30 percent of sports-related injuries happen among youth five 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 <CURRENT NUMBER> mild traumatic brain injuries, often called concussions, occur in the United States per year during competitive sports and recreational activities; 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 bring a lifetime of physical, cognitive, and behavioral challenges; 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 <STATE> are dedicated toraising awareness of brain injury;

**Now** Therefore, I, <NAME>, <OFFICE TITLE> of the state of <STATE>, do hereby proclaim March <YEAR> to be

**Brain Injury Awareness Month**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Image result for SEAL GOLD <SEAL OF THE OFFICE> | in <STATE>, and commend its observance to all citizens.  In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of <NAME> this the <DAY> of <MONTH>, <YEAR>.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ <OFFICE TITLE> of <STATE> |