

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the number one cause of death in the Palmetto State for persons ages 1 to 44, claiming the lives of an average of 1,000 South Carolinians each year while approximately 3,000 people are hospitalized as a result of a TBI and 12,000 are treated and released from Emergency Departments around the state; and

WHEREAS, caused most often by falls, motor vehicle crashes, struck by/against events, and assaults, TBIs can disrupt brain function, creating problems with cognition, movement, sensation, and emotions; and

WHEREAS, a concussion is considered a serious injury to the brain, and multiple concussions can lead to lifelong disability and death; and

WHEREAS, there are currently an estimated 61,000 residents of the Palmetto State with some form of functional limitation or TBI-related disability; and

WHEREAS, this year's observance of Brain Injury Awareness Month serves as a reminder that *A Concussion is a Brain Injury* in an effort to educate the public on the identification and symptoms of a concussion and to reduce the incidence of sports and recreation-related brain injuries.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nikki R. Haley, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2012 as

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to work together to raise awareness of how to prevent TBIs and to reinforce the importance of quality rehabilitation and education programs for TBI survivors.



Handwritten signature of Nikki R. Haley in black ink.

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA