



Proclamation

WHEREAS, brain injury affects people regardless of age, race, gender, or ethnicity, and results from a multitude of causes, including motor vehicle crashes, falls, abuse, assault, sports, recreational injuries, gunshot wounds, military blasts, aneurysm, carbon monoxide poisoning, alcohol or drug overdose, stroke, oxygen deprivation, infection or disease; and

WHEREAS, brain injury affects people in a variety of ways including impacts on speech, memory, decision making, impulsivity, sleep, mental health, substance use, mobility, and the ability to self advocate; and

WHEREAS, brain injury is now considered a chronic health condition as survivors experience various enduring symptoms and evolving needs that crossover into multiple healthcare services; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 2.8 million Americans experience a traumatic brain injury each year leading to nearly 2.5 million emergency department visits, 225,000 hospitalizations and 65,000 deaths annually and more than 5.3 million Americans are living with a permanent brain injury or related disability; and

WHEREAS, more than 5,000 Coloradans were hospitalized with a brain injury, however, it is estimated that over 500,000 Coloradans have experienced a brain injury; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of incarcerated individuals reported a brain injury prior to their involvement with the justice system and at least 60% of those who entered the criminal justice system have a lifetime history of brain injury; and

WHEREAS, more than 50% of people experiencing homelessness or housing instability will incur a traumatic brain injury in their lives and certain groups have a higher chance of sustaining a traumatic brain injury including racial and ethnic minorities, military service members and veterans, people experiencing homelessness and survivors of intimate partner, violence; and

WHEREAS, public awareness of brain injuries is critical to prevention initiatives, understanding the nature of these injuries, enhancing recovery of survivors, and supporting caregivers;

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the state of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2025, as

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of March, 2025



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor