

WHEREAS; according to the Brain Injury Association of America, an acquired brain injury (ABI) is a brain injury that is non-hereditary, non-congenital, and non-degenerative, that is not induced by trauma at birth and can be traumatic or non-traumatic in nature, often affecting how the brain works; and

WHEREAS; included in the classification of ABIs is a traumatic brain injury (TBI), which can be caused by an external force, including a blow or jolt to the head, motor vehicle accident, or other force, and a non-traumatic brain injury (NTBI), which is caused by internal factors such as stroke, aneurysm, tumor, infectious disease, or lack of oxygen to the brain; and

WHEREAS; whether it is a TBI or NTBI, the consequences of a brain injury are unpredictable and can affect how an individual thinks, acts, and feels, and while a brain injury can impact anyone regardless of age, children and older adults are at an increased risk; and

WHEREAS; between 2000 and 2023, the United States Department of Defense reported more than 485,000 TBIs among members of the U.S. Armed Forces, underscoring the necessity of ensuring access to healthcare and support services to active military members, veterans, and their families; and

WHEREAS; family members and loved ones of individuals who have sustained a brain injury may also face challenges as they adjust, including financial difficulties, problems with communication, job-related struggles, and lack of support from other family members and friends; and

WHEREAS; brain injury organizations in Wisconsin are a valuable source of information, education, advocacy, and support for individuals who have experienced a brain injury, their family members and friends, and the professionals who serve them; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in promoting further understanding of brain injuries, spreading awareness of prevention and treatment, and supporting all those who have experienced a brain injury, including service members and veterans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim March 2024 as

## **BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 2nd day of February 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State