

A RESOLUTION recognizing March 9, 2016, as Brain Injury Awareness Day.

WHEREAS, in 2014, over 39,000 people in Kentucky were admitted to a hospital emergency department or were hospitalized due to a traumatic brain injury. This is an average of 106 people per day who are treated for a brain injury in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, these injuries often leave the person with long-term physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities that severely limit the ability to live independent lives; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's rate of brain injury is five percent, nearly twice the national rate of three percent; and

WHEREAS, brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability in young children, and bicycle accidents are the fourth leading cause for brain injury in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky helps distribute and fit over 1,000 bicycle helmets annually; and

WHEREAS, brain injury has affected over 266,000 men and women deployed overseas in military operations, and many veterans are still seeking assistance to cope with the long-term issues caused by these injuries; and

WHEREAS, over half of brain injuries reported occur before the age of 21; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost of brain injury in the United States is \$60 billion in direct medical costs and lost wages; and

WHEREAS, brain injury is over six times more prevalent than breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, spinal cord injury, and multiple sclerosis combined; and

WHEREAS, the only cure for brain injury is prevention; and

WHEREAS, March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky promotes prevention and services for people with brain injuries;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby urge all citizens to work together to prevent brain injuries, to educate others about the effects of brain injury, and to support the survivors of brain injury and their families in their efforts to return to their community.

➔Section 2. The House of Representatives hereby recognizes March 9, 2016, as Brain Injury Awareness Day.

➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Representative Joni L. Jenkins.