

*Office of the Governor*



*State of Missouri*

## *Governor's Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, traumatic brain injury is the leading cause of death and disability in children and adults ages one to forty-four; and

**WHEREAS**, 5.3 million Americans and nearly 120,000 Missourians live with a traumatic brain injury; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic cost of traumatic brain injury to society is estimated at \$76.5 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, traumatic brain injury is a significant health issue experienced by members of our military who have protected the country in conflicts across the globe. The Department of Defense reports more than 450,000 service members were diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury from 2000 to 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, young athletes are acquiring traumatic brain injuries due to sports-related concussions; the Interscholastic Youth Sports Brain Injury Prevention Act has been enacted by the Missouri General Assembly to protect these young athletes against long-term injury; and

**WHEREAS**, traumatic brain injuries are a contributing factor that account for thirty percent of all injury deaths in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, brain injury is a life changing injury that affects the whole family as well as the injured person; and

**WHEREAS**, the growing number of survivors of brain injury has increased the demand for rehabilitation services, long-term care, and community and family support services; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention is the only way to avoid traumatic brain injury, and public awareness is key to preventing this type of injury; and

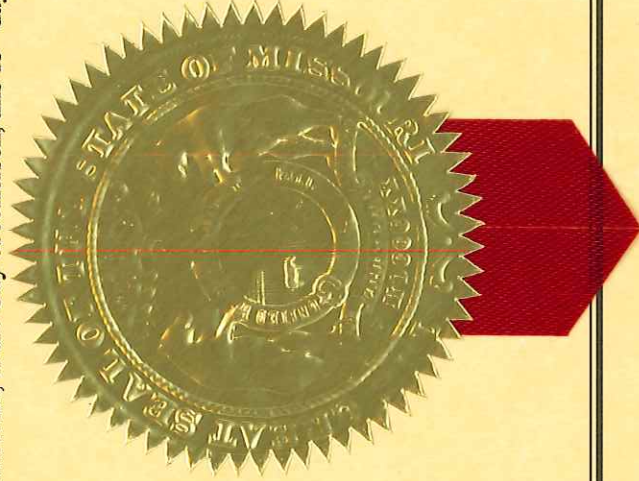
**WHEREAS**, the Missouri Brain Injury Advisory Council, the Traumatic Brain Injury State Implementation Partnership Grant Program, the Brain Injury Association of Missouri, and statewide partners continue to work on activities to advance efforts in the areas of prevention, public awareness, and services for those whose lives have been affected by brain injuries.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Michael L. Parson, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI, do hereby proclaim March 2023, to be

### **BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH**

in Missouri, and encourage all citizens to recognize Missourians with brain injuries and their families.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Missouri, in the City of Jefferson, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.



*Michael L. Parson*

*Michael L. Parson*  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

*Jay Ashcraft*

SECRETARY OF STATE