WHEREAS, each year, 2.8 million people in the United States acquire a brain injury from an external blow to the head or an internal event such as a heart attack, stroke, or tumor; and

WHEREAS, nearly 17,000 Missourians are admitted to an emergency department or hospitalized every year with a traumatic brain injury; and

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury is the signature injury experienced by members of our military who have protected the country in conflicts across the globe. The Department of Defense reports over 375,230 incidents of traumatic brain injury since 2000; and

WHEREAS, young athletes are acquiring traumatic brain injuries due to sports-related concussions; and

WHEREAS, falls, motor vehicle accidents and being struck by or against an object are the three leading causes of traumatic brain injury; and

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries are a contributing factor that accounts for 30 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, 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 Missouri Traumatic Brain Injury Implementation Partnership Project, 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; and

WHEREAS, the Interscholastic Youth Sports Brain Injury Prevention Act has been enacted by the Missouri General Assembly.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Eric R. Greitens, Governor of the State of Missouri, do hereby proclaim March 2018 to be

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH IN MISSOURI

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 14th day of February, 2018.

[Signature]

Eric R. Greitens
Governor

Attest:

[Signature]

Secretary of State