

**STATE OF ALASKA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

2021

Source
HR 7

**House
Resolve No.**
7



Proclaiming March 2021 as Brain Injury Awareness Month.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

WHEREAS the month of March is National Brain Injury Awareness Month, a time to recognize the prevalence of brain injuries and help improve quality of life for individuals who have sustained a brain injury; and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines a traumatic brain injury as a disruption in the normal function of the brain that can be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or penetrating head injury; and

WHEREAS traumatic and acquired brain injuries can happen to anyone and can bring a lifetime of secondary health conditions, including persistent concussion symptoms, post-traumatic stress injury, physical impairment, developmental delays, paralysis, cognitive and behavioral problems, suicidal thoughts, and a greater risk for dementia, including Alzheimer's, which may present lifelong challenges for individuals and their families; and

WHEREAS traumatic brain injuries, which often result from motor vehicle accidents, falls, assaults, domestic violence, and sports and occupational injuries, are largely

preventable; and

WHEREAS the rate of identified traumatic and acquired brain injuries in the state is significantly higher than the national rate; and

WHEREAS between 3,200,000 and 5,300,000 Americans live with long-term disabilities resulting from traumatic brain injuries; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, approximately 27,000,000 new cases of traumatic brain injuries were reported worldwide; and

WHEREAS the Brain Injury Association of America reports that every nine seconds someone in the United States sustains a brain injury; and

WHEREAS approximately 137 people die every day in the United States because of traumatic brain injury-related injuries; and

WHEREAS traumatic and acquired brain injuries may lead to homelessness, substance or alcohol misuse, criminal behavior, domestic violence, or incorrectly diagnosed mental or behavioral health disorders; and

WHEREAS access to education, assessment, support, and care can greatly improve quality of life for an individual who has suffered a traumatic or acquired brain injury and enable the individual to return to the individual's home, school, workplace, and community, reducing the overall cost of care; and

WHEREAS, during the past decade, an increase in research dedicated to traumatic brain injury has improved understanding of the long-lasting, dynamic nature of the pathophysiology resulting from, and the brain's capacity to adapt in response to, traumatic brain injury; and

WHEREAS policymakers have a responsibility to promote the safety and well-being of our communities, including prevention of brain injuries, through resolutions and person-centered policies; and

WHEREAS the global project Unmasking Brain Injury and other similar projects seek to give survivors of traumatic and acquired brain injuries a voice, to promote brain injury awareness and education, and to eliminate stigma and discrimination by showing that an individual living with a brain injury deserves to be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion and deserves full inclusion in the individual's community; and

WHEREAS Brain Injury Awareness Month is recognized by the Department of

Defense; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, over 339,462 service members have sustained traumatic brain injuries;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives proclaims March 2021 as Brain Injury Awareness Month and encourages residents of the state to further public awareness of the effects of brain injuries and the importance of taking steps to prevent brain injuries.