

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

## Proclamation No. 22-0362 March is Brain Injury Awareness Month

**WHEREAS**, traumatic and acquired brain injuries are often invisible injuries that are frequently overlooked, poorly understood, and underfunded, that affect thousands of Coloradans, their families, and the economy each year; and

**WHEREAS**, a brain injury is caused by a bump, blow, jolt to, or penetration of the head, or lack of oxygen or blood flow to the brain that disrupts the normal function of the brain; and

**WHEREAS**, each year an estimated 3.5 million Americans suffer a mild traumatic brain injury, often referred to as concussion; and

**WHEREAS**, with each year, an increase of 2,200 Coloradans experience persisting disability after hospitalization for brain injury, without accounting for the many thousands that are not hospitalized or diagnosed; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado has approximately 47,000 active military personnel and 400,000 veterans residing in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, traumatic brain injury has been the signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and treatment is often complicated by high rates of PTSD and suicide, presenting new challenges for members of the military and their families from our state; and

**WHEREAS**, as many as 30 percent of sports-related injuries happen among youth, five to nineteen years of age, and because the signs of brain injury are not always well recognized, youth may be put at risk for another injury and potentially second-impact syndrome, and death; and

**WHEREAS**, as many as 50 percent of mild traumatic brain injuries, or concussions, go unreported or undetected, and this injury that happens in an instant can bring a lifetime of physical, cognitive, and behavioral devastation to one's life and family; and

**WHEREAS**, early and adequate intervention, especially cognitive rehabilitation will greatly increase quality of life, and enable individuals with brain injury to return to home, school, work, and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, March has been dedicated as National Brain Injury Awareness Month to promote awareness of the extent, consequences, causes, treatment, and prevention of traumatic and acquired brain injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, with the Brain Injury Association of America, Brain Injury Association of Colorado, and the dedicated team of therapists at Mountain States Therapy and Concussion Center we ask you to raise awareness of brain injury and its impacts, as well as access to care for treatment for individuals in need;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver proclaims the month of March as Brain Injury Awareness Month, in honor of all who have suffered, and those who love them.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Mountain States Therapy and Concussion Center.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL March 29, 2022

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stacie Gilmore".

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PRESIDENT