

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injuries (TBI) affect more than 2.8 million Americans every year regardless of age, race, gender, or ethnicity and result from a multitude of causes, including falls, accidents, sports and recreation, stroke, overdose, suicide attempts, poisoning, disease or infection, motor vehicle crashes, military action or IED blasts, intimate partner or domestic violence, abuse, assault, birth defects, gunshot wounds, and other trauma; and

WHEREAS, traumatic and acquired brain injury is a contributing factor to a third of all injury-related deaths in the United States, as each day, 153 Americans die from traumatic injuries that include brain injury; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1 out of 5 American soldiers who served in Iraq or Afghanistan have suffered a traumatic brain injury, which relates to higher rates of PTSD, depression, anxiety, chronic pain, and suicidal ideation, creating a dire need to protect our active military, veterans, and their families as they continue to serve or assimilate back into civilian society; and

WHEREAS, more than 2,600 Vermonters will report a Traumatic Brain Injury this year, leading to over 170 deaths, 8,000 Vermonters remain disabled due to these brain injuries, and many more patients will remain undiagnosed and untreated due to lack of medical resources, funding, and/or awareness; and

WHEREAS, the critical understanding, prevention, and treatment of these injuries will directly stem from increased public awareness.

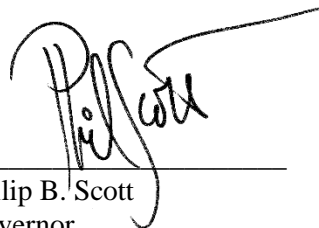
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim March 2019 as

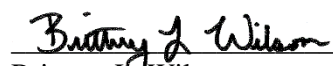
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 26th day of February, A.D. 2019.




Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs