WHEREAS, brain injuries affect people regardless of age, race, gender or ethnicity and result from a multitude of causes, including motor vehicle crashes, falls, abuse, assault, sports and recreation injuries, gunshot wounds, military blasts, aneurysm, carbon monoxide poisoning, alcohol or drug overdose, stroke, oxygen deprivation, congenital abnormality, infection or disease; and

WHEREAS, brain injuries affect more than 1.7 million Americans every year, and a further estimated 5.3 million Americans currently live with a disability resulting from a brain injury; and

WHEREAS, the cost of brain injuries in the United States is estimated to be $60 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, approximately 20% of American soldiers who served in Iraq or Afghanistan and returned to Fort Carson have suffered a brain injury; and

WHEREAS, the risk of brain injury is highest among adolescents, young athletes, and those older than 75; and

WHEREAS, public awareness of the consequences of brain injuries is critical to understanding the nature of these injuries, the prevention thereof, and to enhancing the recovery of those with brain injuries;

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim March 2014,

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of March, 2014.

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor