

# Senate Joint Resolution 21

Sponsored by Senator MORRISETTE, Representative BOQUIST; Senators DECKERT, KRUSE, MONNES ANDERSON, NELSON, WALKER, Representatives BARKER, BONAMICI, BOONE, CAMERON, DALLUM, DINGFELDER, FLORES, GILLIAM, HUNT, KRIEGER, MAURER, MORGAN, NELSON, OLSON, ROSENBAUM, SCHAUFLEER, THATCHER, WHISNANT (at the request of Brain Injury Association of Oregon)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Designates month of March in each year as Brain Injury Awareness Month.

## JOINT RESOLUTION

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2       Whereas 1.5 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain injury each year, and 500,000 of those  
3 individuals die as a result of these injuries; and

4       Whereas approximately 5.3 million Americans live with disabilities resulting from traumatic  
5 brain injury each year, and 500,000 of those individuals die as a result of these injuries, including  
6 72,000 Oregonians; and

7       Whereas traumatic brain injury ranks as the leading cause of death and disability in children  
8 and young adults; and

9       Whereas 40,000 individuals over the age of 65 visit hospital emergency rooms for traumatic  
10 brain injury resulting from a fall, leading to the hospitalization of 16,000 senior citizens and the  
11 deaths of 4,000 senior citizens annually; and

12       Whereas the costs relating to brain injury are staggering, and individuals with traumatic brain  
13 injury typically face 5 to 10 years of intensive rehabilitation with cumulative costs exceeding \$60  
14 billion annually; and

15       Whereas individuals with traumatic brain injury suffer from serious physical impairments and  
16 a variety of perceptual, cognitive, psychiatric, emotional and behavioral complications, including  
17 impaired interpersonal and problem-solving skills, memory loss, decreased thought-processing abili-  
18 ties, speech and seizure disorders, and physical deficits; and

19       Whereas the only cure for traumatic brain injury is prevention, and public awareness is critical  
20 to the prevention of brain injury and to enhancing the recovery process of all individuals affected  
21 by traumatic brain injury; now, therefore,

22 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

23       That the month of March in each year is designated as Brain Injury Awareness Month. All  
24 Oregon citizens are urged to recognize that knowing the consequences of traumatic brain injury is  
25 critical to public understanding, and that this understanding can lead to the prevention of traumatic  
26 brain injury and enhance the recovery process for traumatic brain injury survivors.

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**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.