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HOUSE RESOLUTION 164

2 WHEREAS, Brain injury is not an event or an outcome, but
3 the start of a misdiagnosed, misunderstood, and under-funded
4 neurological disease; individuals who sustain brain injuries
5 must have timely access to expert trauma care, specialized
6 rehabilitation, lifelong disease management, and
7 individualized services and support in order to live healthy,
8 independent, and satisfying lives; and

9 WHEREAS, 1.5 million Americans sustain a traumatic brain
10 injury (TBI) every year; among those who survive, 80,000 people
11 per year must learn to cope with lifelong losses of function;
12 the number of people with TBI who are not seen in an emergency
13 department or who receive no care is unknown; and

14 WHEREAS, The leading causes of traumatic brain injury are
15 falls, motor vehicle crashes, being struck by or against an
16 object, assaults, and blasts; many active-duty military
17 personnel in war zones suffer traumatic brain injuries; the
18 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as
19 many as 3.9 million sports-related and recreation-related
20 concussions occur in the United States each year; the risks of
21 catastrophic injuries, or even death, are significant when a
22 concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and
23 managed; and

1 WHEREAS, Concussions are a type of brain injury that can
2 range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain
3 normally works; concussions occur with or without loss of
4 consciousness; a lack of proper diagnosis and management of
5 concussions may result in serious long-term consequences,
6 including coma or even death; signs and symptoms may be
7 noticeable immediately, or may take days or weeks before they
8 are present; and

9 WHEREAS, Anyone with signs of moderate or severe TBI should
10 receive medical attention as soon as possible; trained medical
11 personnel will work to stabilize an individual with TBI and
12 focus on preventing further injury; and

13 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
14 estimates that at least 5.3 million Americans currently have a
15 long-term or lifelong need for help to perform daily activities
16 as a result of TBI; TBI can cause a wide range of functional
17 changes that affect thinking, sensation, language, and
18 emotions; TBI can also cause epilepsy and increase the risk for
19 conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease,
20 and other brain disorders that become more prevalent with age;
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 we designate the months of March 2011 and March 2012 as Brain
3 Injury Awareness Month in the State of Illinois and urge the
4 citizens of this State to join in recognizing the importance of
5 prevention and early detection of brain injuries; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
8 presented to the Brain Injury Association of Illinois.