

EDUCATION

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HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



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Senate Bill 46 – Brain Injury Awareness Month

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 46 would designate each March as Brain Injury Awareness Month in Alaska. This will help focus public attention on the prevalence of brain injuries and highlight ways to prevent these injuries.

Both traumatic and acquired brain injuries can happen to anyone. These injuries can bring a lifetime of secondary health conditions, including persistent concussion symptoms, post-traumatic stress injury, physical impairment, and developmental delays.

It's estimated that 3.2 to 5 million Americans live with long-term disabilities due to brain injuries, and Alaska has one of the highest rates of traumatic brain injuries in the nation. The Brain Injury Association of America reports that every 9 seconds, someone in the U.S. sustains a brain injury. The Department of Defense reports that over 430,000 service members have sustained traumatic brain injuries since 2000.

Thousands of lives are impacted every day by brain injuries even though most traumatic brain injuries are preventable, especially by wearing a seatbelt when in a vehicle and wearing a helmet when skiing, biking, and snowmachining.

Permanently designating each March as Brain Injury Awareness Month in Alaska will increase public awareness about the dangers of brain injuries and, potentially, help prevent future brain injuries among Alaskans. We ask for your support.