

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 693

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injuries are a dangerous reality for  
2 many Texans, but there have been significant advances toward better  
3 awareness, understanding, and support over the past several years;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Approximately 144,000 Texans sustain traumatic  
6 brain injuries annually, and about 4,000 of those die from their  
7 injuries; an estimated 500,000 Texans are currently living with a  
8 disability caused by traumatic brain injury, which remains the  
9 leading cause of death and disability in persons under 45 and is  
10 especially common among children and teenagers; and

11           WHEREAS, In order to mitigate the societal impact of this  
12 type of trauma, the 78th Texas Legislature established the Texas  
13 Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council and charged it with  
14 identifying individuals with TBIs, informing state leadership of  
15 their needs, recommending policies to address those needs,  
16 encouraging research into causes and prevention, and promoting  
17 awareness; in the past several years, the TBIAC has accomplished  
18 these core responsibilities by implementing a myriad of successful  
19 programs across the state; and

20           WHEREAS, The council, with members appointed by the executive  
21 commissioner of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, has  
22 partnered with various agencies to ensure that individuals with  
23 TBIs have access to adequate and high quality care; created in 2007,  
24 the Office of Acquired Brain Injury researched and provided several

1 options to fund waivers for affected patients; the OABI and TBIAC  
2 have collaborated on the development of accredited online training  
3 courses for public health professionals, caregivers, social  
4 workers, survivors, law enforcement personnel, and family members  
5 dealing with TBIs; the OABI and the council also teamed up with the  
6 Texas Education Agency to create a resource on TBIs and successful  
7 communication and teaching skills for educators; in addition, the  
8 OABI works closely with the Texas State Athletic Trainers'  
9 Association to raise awareness of sports concussions; and

10       WHEREAS, A large number of United States service members  
11 suffer from TBIs, especially those returning from the wars in Iraq  
12 and Afghanistan, and the TBIAC has worked especially hard to help  
13 these brave men and women manage their conditions; with the OABI and  
14 the Department of Veterans Affairs, the council released an  
15 instructional video in both English and Spanish that offers advice  
16 for effective communication and reviews available resources for  
17 veterans with TBIs; and

18       WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injuries affect Texans from all  
19 backgrounds and of all ages, and it is fitting to take this  
20 opportunity to celebrate the achievements of those who have  
21 sustained brain injuries and to pay tribute to the many caregivers  
22 and professionals who support them; now, therefore, be it

23       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
24 Legislature hereby recognize March 2015 as Brain Injury Awareness  
25 Month and honor the work of the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury  
26 Advisory Council; and, be it further

27       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for the TBIAC as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
2 House of Representatives.