



2017 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21

March 23, 2017 - Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, CARPENTER, WIRCH, OLSEN, RISSER and DARLING, cosponsored by Representatives FIELDS, SINICKI, MILROY, KESSLER, BERCEAU, BOWEN, MURPHY, TUSLER, E. BROOKS, HEBL and SPREITZER. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming March 2017 as Concussion Awareness Month.

2 Whereas, concussions are a mild form of traumatic brain injury that interfere
3 with normal brain function, and can be caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head,
4 or any blow to the body that causes the head to move back and forth rapidly; and

5 Whereas, although classified as a mild form of traumatic brain injury because
6 they are usually non-life-threatening, concussions must still be taken seriously; and

7 Whereas, concussion symptoms are vast and range from mild to severe and may
8 include headaches that will not go away, having more trouble than usual
9 remembering things or concentrating, confusion about recent events, feeling tired all
10 the time, feeling sad or anxious, or becoming easily irritated or angry for little or no
11 reason; and

12 Whereas, although for many, recovery from concussions is a quick process, the
13 effects can be long-term, and those who have had a head injury are two to four times
14 more likely to have another head injury; and

1 Whereas, in high school sports alone, concussions suffered by athletes have
2 more than doubled between the 2005-06 school year and the 2012-13 school year and
3 now make up 23 percent of high school athletic injuries; and

4 Whereas, 20 percent of the 1.5 million head injuries that occur in the United
5 States each year are sports-related; and

6 Whereas, parents, coaches, and athletic trainers should be fully aware of
7 concussion symptoms, be able to identify them in children, not allow children to
8 return to play until they are completely asymptomatic, and make sure their return
9 is gradual based on their recovery; and

10 Whereas, while the short-term effects of concussions are well-known and
11 easily identifiable in individuals, the long-term effects are still unclear; and

12 Whereas, although research into the subject is new, early reports suggest that
13 even a single concussion may cause lasting brain damage, including structural brain
14 damage in regions of the brain linked to mood disorders and depression; and

15 Whereas, in fact, between 10 to 20 percent of those who have had a concussion
16 may go on to develop chronic problems; and

17 Whereas, future research into this subject should be encouraged in order to
18 better educate ourselves on the severity of effects individuals face after suffering one
19 or multiple concussions; and

20 Whereas, our continued support of further education about concussions can
21 lead to a better understanding of the precautions we can take to prevent the
22 increasing number of concussions suffered by high school athletes; and

23 Whereas, with the help of medical specialists and dedicated parents, coaches,
24 and athletic trainers, we can hope to return high school sports to the fun and
25 beneficial experience they should be; and

1 Whereas, the establishment of Concussion Awareness Month will provide the
2 opportunity to share experiences and information and raise public awareness about
3 concussions; now, therefore, be it

4 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the legislature
5 hereby proclaims March 2017 as Concussion Awareness Month in Wisconsin.

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(END)