

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Concussions occur from a direct hit to the head that causes the brain to shake within the skull resulting in the damage of blood vessels and nerves; and

**Whereas** Symptoms of a concussion include confusion, head ache, blurred vision, and in the most extreme cases, vomiting and loss of consciousness can occur; and

**Whereas** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), concussions account for nearly one in 10 sports injuries; and

**Whereas** The CDC estimates there are as many as 3.8 million sports and recreation related concussions each year in the United States; and

**Whereas** The Sports Concussion Institute estimates that for young people ages fifteen to twenty-four years, sports are the second leading cause of traumatic brain injury behind only motor vehicle crashes; and

**Whereas** Protective equipment, including helmets, padding, and mouth guards reduces the likelihood of experiencing a concussion; and

**Whereas** All local high schools in Massachusetts are required to receive mandatory training in the identification, treatment and care of athletic concussions; and

**Whereas** Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to inform our residents about this serious injury, the safety precautions which can prevent such injuries,

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim November 2011, to be,

## ATHLETIC CONCUSSION AWARENESS MONTH

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this nineteenth day of October, in the year two thousand and eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH



God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts