

*The State of New Hampshire*  
*By His Excellency*  
*Christopher T. Sununu, Governor*

*A Proclamation*

In the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Three

**HYPERBARIC AWARENESS MONTH**  
**MAY 2023**

**WHEREAS**, more than 8 million people in the US are living with chronic wounds, and lack of awareness of advanced wound care and benefits of hyperbaric oxygen therapy leaves many people without access to life changing care; and

**WHEREAS**, hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) is a proven treatment option for wounds, infections or injuries that have not responded to standard treatment. There are currently fifteen indications for HBOT recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and other third-party payors; and

**WHEREAS**, hyperbaric oxygen therapy is most commonly used for the treatment of diabetic ulcers of lower extremities, radiation injury to bone or tissue, compromised grafts and flaps and chronic refractory osteomyelitis; and

**WHEREAS**, cancer is the second leading cause of death in the United States and of the 18 million people diagnosed with cancer in the US, about half of them have received radiation therapy; and

**WHEREAS**, many patients who undergo radiation therapy discover a hidden complication that may not come to light until years after they complete treatments. Radiation therapy can restrict oxygen in the body's healthy tissue which is needed for the tissue to thrive and if there is a break in the integrity of the tissue, infection and non-healing wounds can occur; and

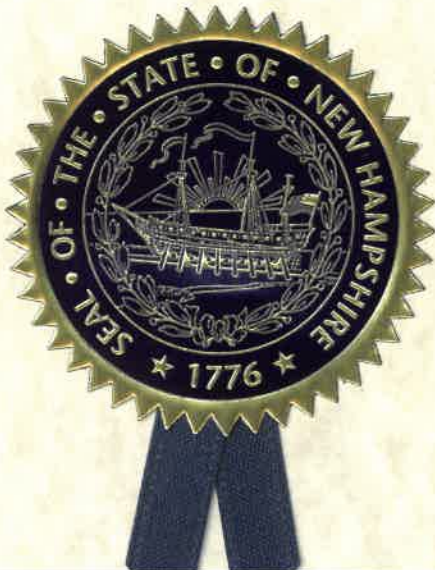
**WHEREAS**, HBOT has emerged as a treatment option for patients who suffer from late radiation tissue injury and helps patients by stimulating growth of new blood vessels following radiation-induced damage; and

**WHEREAS**, over 34 million people in the U.S. have diabetes, and 25 percent of them will develop a foot ulcer, possibly leading to amputation. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy provides necessary oxygenation which is critical in preventing amputation; and

**WHEREAS**, Hyperbaric Awareness USATM and the Hyperbaric AwareTM campaign aim to spread national, statewide, and local awareness of available treatment options for people suffering from radiation injury, chronic wounds and diabetes, thus prolonging lives, avoiding amputations and reducing the cost of care and improving quality of life;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU, GOVERNOR** of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim **MAY 2023** as **HYPERBARIC AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of New Hampshire and call this to the attention of all citizens.

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of New Hampshire to be affixed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2023.



*Chitish T. Sununu*

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor