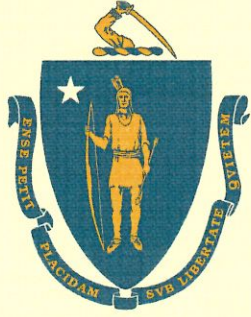


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, More than 8 million people in the US are living with chronic wounds. 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. 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. If there is a break in the integrity of the tissue, infection and non-healing wounds can occur. Five to fifteen percent of patients who undergo radiation therapy may develop late radiation tissue injury; and

Whereas, Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) has emerged as a treatment option for patients who suffer from late radiation tissue injury. HBOT helps patients by stimulating growth of new blood vessels following radiation-induced damage; and

Whereas, Over 34 million people in the US 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 Month aims 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,

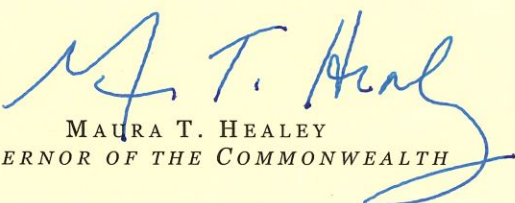
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
do hereby proclaim May 2024 to be,


HYPERBARIC AWARENESS MONTH


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

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of May, in the year two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-seventh.

BY HER EXCELLENCY


MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts