

STATE OF OREGON

PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

- WHEREAS:** More than 8 million people in the United States are living with chronic wounds. Lack of awareness of advanced wound care and the benefits of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) leaves many people without access to life changing care; and
- WHEREAS:** HBOT is a proven treatment option for wounds, infections or injuries that have not responded to standard treatment. HBOT 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 United States, about half of them receive 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. About 15 percent of patients who undergo radiation therapy may develop late radiation tissue injury; and
- WHEREAS:** HBOT has emerged as a treatment option for patients who suffer from late radiation tissue injury by stimulating growth of new blood vessels following radiation-induced damage; and
- WHEREAS:** Oregonians are encouraged to spread awareness of available treatment options for people suffering from radiation injury, chronic wounds and diabetes, thus prolonging lives, avoiding amputations, reducing the cost of care, and improving quality of life.

NOW,

THEREFORE: I, Tina Kotek, Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **May 19 - 25, 2024** to be

HYPERBARIC AWARENESS WEEK

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, May 2, 2024.

Tina Kotek, Governor

LaVonne Griffin-Valade, Secretary of State