

The State of Maryland



Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland
HYPERBARIC AWARE USA MONTH
MAY 2024

- WHEREAS,** *More than 8 million people in the United States are living with chronic wounds; and lack of awareness of advanced wound care and the benefits of hyperbaric oxygen therapy leaves many people without access to life-changing care; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is a proven treatment option for wounds, infections or injuries that have not responded to standard treatment; and there are currently fifteen indications for hyperbaric oxygen therapy recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 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 United States, about half of them have received radiation therapy; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Radiation therapy can restrict oxygen in the body's healthy tissue which is needed for the tissue to thrive; many patients who undergo radiation therapy discover a hidden complication years after they complete treatments; and*
- WHEREAS;** *Hyperbaric oxygen therapy 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,** *More than 37 million people in the United States have diabetes, and 25 percent of them will develop a foot ulcer, possibly leading to amputation; hyperbaric oxygen therapy provides necessary oxygenation that 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, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim MAY 2024 as **HYPERBARIC AWARE USA MONTH** and commend this observance to all citizens.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,
this 1st day of May
Two Thousand and twenty-four



[Signature]
Governor

[Signature]
Lt. Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of State