

# Proclamation

## by Governor Jim Justice

- 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 and out of the 18 million people diagnosed, 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. 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. HBOT helps patients by stimulating the growth of new blood vessels following radiation-induced damage; and
- Whereas,** over 37 million people in the US have diabetes, and 25 percent of them will develop a foot ulcer, possibly leading to amputation. HBOT 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,** Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *May 2024* as:


## *Hyperbaric Awareness Month*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.


**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the First day of May, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.



  
Jim Justice  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

  
Mac Warner  
Secretary of State