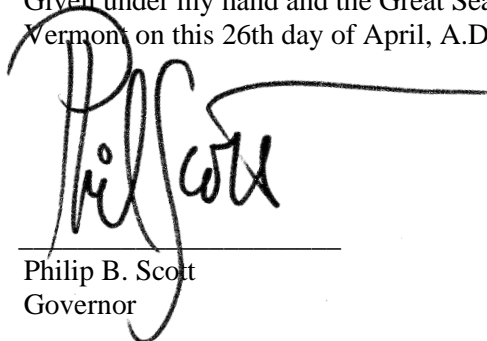


**State of Vermont  
Executive Department  
A Proclamation**


- WHEREAS,** more than eight million people in the United States 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 and there are currently 15 indications for HBOT recognized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and other third-party payors; and
- WHEREAS,** HBOT is most commonly used for the treatment of diabetic ulcers of lower extremities, radiation injury to bone or tissue, comprised 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,** many patients who undergo radiation therapy discover a hidden complication that may not come to light until years after they complete treatments and 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 and HBOT helps patients by stimulating growth of new blood vessels following radiation-induced damage; and
- WHEREAS,** over 37 million people in the United States have diabetes, and 25 percent of them will develop a foot ulcer, possibly leading to amputation and HBOT provides necessary oxygenation which is critical in preventing amputation; and
- WHEREAS,** Hyperbaric Awareness USATM and the Hyperbaric AwareTM campaign 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, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim May 2024 as

**HYPERBARIC AWARENESS MONTH  
in Vermont.**

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 26th day of April, A.D. 2024.

  
Philip B. Scott  
Governor



  
Brittney J. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs