

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

HYPERBARIC AWARENESS WEEK

MAY 19-25, 2024

WHEREAS, more than 8 million people in the US 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

WHEREAS, 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; and about half of the 18 million people diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. have received radiation therapy; and radiation therapy can restrict oxygen in the body's healthy tissue which is needed for the tissue to thrive; and if there is a break in the integrity of the tissue, infection and non-healing wounds can occur; and about 15% of patients who undergo radiation therapy may develop late radiation tissue injury; and

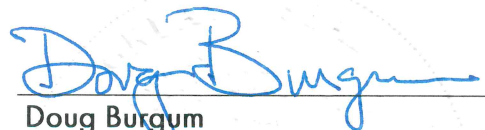
WHEREAS, HBOT has emerged as a treatment option for patients who suffer from late radiation tissue injury, and HBOT helps patients by stimulating growth of new blood vessels following radiation-induced damage; and

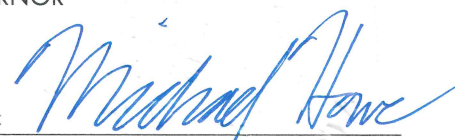
WHEREAS, over 37 million people in the U.S. have diabetes, and 25% of them will develop a foot ulcer, possibly leading to amputation; and hyperbaric oxygen therapy provides necessary oxygenation which is critical in preventing amputation; and

WHEREAS, there might be increased awareness of available treatment options for people suffering from chronic wounds, radiation injury and diabetes, thus prolonging lives, avoiding amputations and reducing the cost of care and improving quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
May 19-25, 2024, **HYPERBARIC AWARENESS WEEK** in the State of North Dakota.




Doug Burgum
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE