



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Wound Care Awareness Week**

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that 6.7 million people currently live with chronic wounds and that number is expected to grow at more than two percent annually for the next decade. The rising incidence is fueled by an aging population and increasing rates of diseases and conditions such as diabetes, obesity and the late effects of radiation therapy; and

**WHEREAS**, untreated chronic wounds can lead to diminished quality of life and possibly amputation of the affected limb. The chronic wound epidemic represents a significant and growing cost to the healthcare system; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 30.3 million people (9.4% of population) have diabetes in the United States (US) and almost two million of those people will develop a diabetic foot ulcer or other non-healing wound. Advanced wound care aims to prevent amputations and heal patients in a faster and more cost-effective way; and

**WHEREAS**, wound care physicians and health care providers take great pride in caring for their patients and seeing their patients succeed; and

**WHEREAS**, awareness and education about chronic wounds will benefit current and future chronic wound patients. The goal of Wound Care Awareness Week is to inform patients, their families, community physicians and the general public about the importance of advanced wound care and its ability to save lives and limbs;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim June 4–8, 2018 as: *Wound Care Awareness Week* in the state and encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing the importance of this week.



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 23 day of May, 2018

**Gina M. Raimondo**  
Governor

**Nellie M. Gorbea**  
Secretary of State