



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION
Plasma Awareness Week

WHEREAS, October 9-15 marks Plasma Awareness Week with observances throughout the United States designed to raise awareness of the importance of plasma donation and its impact on patients with rare diseases, recognize the contributions of plasma donors to saving and improving lives, and increase understanding about life-saving plasma protein therapies and the conditions they treat; and

WHEREAS, plasma-derived and recombinant therapies, collectively known as plasma protein therapies are unique, biologic products for which no substitutes exist, and which save and improve lives of individuals throughout Rhode Island and the United States; and

WHEREAS, plasma protein therapies are used to treat many conditions including hemophilia and other bleeding disorders, primary immune deficiencies, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, hereditary angioedema, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, and Rh negative pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, these therapies substantially increase quality of life, extend life expectancy, and improve patient outcomes for an estimated 400 individuals in the state of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, each year approximately 1,400 pregnant women in Rhode Island receive a plasma protein therapy to protect mother and baby from complications due to incompatible blood types;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim October 9 – 15, 2016 as: *Plasma Awareness Week* in the state and encourage all residents to recognize the importance of plasma donations.



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 7 day of September, 2016

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor