



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION
Infection Prevention Week

WHEREAS, protecting the health of Americans includes providing every citizen with access to safe and effective healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Infection Preventionists are devoted to patient and healthcare worker safety and are committed to reducing the risk and occurrence of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs); and

WHEREAS, every year, HAIs are among the leading causes of death in the United States, accounting for an estimated 1 – 3.75 million infections and 455,000 associated deaths in 2014. This estimate includes the one in 25 people who get HAIs in hospitals each year, and the nearly 75,000 people in hospitals who die each year; and

WHEREAS, the financial burden attributed to HAIs is staggering and represents an estimated \$28 billion to \$33 billion in excess healthcare costs each year, and \$9.8 billion in the United States alone; and

WHEREAS, according to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that at any time over 1.4 million people worldwide suffer from infectious complications acquired in a hospital, with hospital-wide prevalence rates varying from 5% to 19% in developing countries; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than two million people are infected with antibiotic-resistant organisms, resulting in approximately 23,000 deaths annually; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for an awareness campaign that promotes engagement between patients, visitors, and healthcare professionals around infection prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, representing more than 15,000 Infection Preventionists, sponsors Infection Prevention Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim October 15 – 21, 2017 as ***Infection Prevention Week*** in the state and encourage all residents to recognize the importance of this week.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 28 day of September, 2017



Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor