



State of Rhode Island
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION
Lung Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in the United States and in Rhode Island in 2021, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 4,712 new lung cancer cases and 3,062 deaths because of lung cancer between 2013 and 2017 in Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, the 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is ~59%, yet only ~17% of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage; and

WHEREAS, screening for lung cancer for high-risk individuals using low-dose computed tomography can lead to the earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives, reducing the mortality by 20% when compared to screening by chest x-ray in the National Lung Screening Trial and reducing the risk of death at 10 years by 24% in men and 33% in women as demonstrated by another large randomized trial; and

WHEREAS, funding for lung cancer research trails far behind funding for research of many other cancers, and additional research is needed in early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for lung cancer as well as in lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities; and

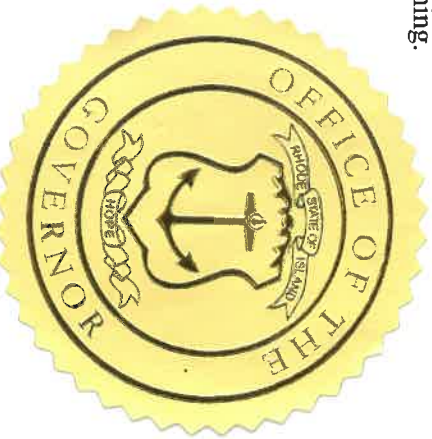
WHEREAS, lung cancer incidence is decreasing twice as fast in men as it is in women, each year more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer and by 2035, more women will die from lung cancer than men; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have the highest lung cancer incidence and mortality of all races, and disparities in lung cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and mortality are well characterized among African Americans and other racial minorities; and

WHEREAS, lung cancer in never smokers is the 7th leading cause of cancer-related death and accounts for 17,000-26,000 deaths in the US every year, 60-70% of never smokers diagnosed with lung cancer are women, and the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in never smokers is increasing in the US; and

WHEREAS, organizations such as the American Lung Cancer Screening Initiative and Women's Lung Cancer Forum are committed to educating about lung cancer and lung cancer screening and working to increase lung cancer screening rates in Rhode Island.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Governor Daniel J. McKee, do hereby proclaim November 2021 as *Lung Cancer Awareness Month* in Rhode Island, and recognize the need for research in lung cancer affecting women and lung cancer health disparities, and encourage all citizens to learn about lung cancer and early detection through lung cancer screening.



Given under my hand and the great seal of
the State of Rhode Island, this 1st day of
November, 2021.

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State