

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

**Diaper Need Awareness Week**

**WHEREAS**, diaper need, the condition of not having a sufficient supply of clean diapers to ensure that infants and toddlers are clean, healthy and dry, can adversely affect the health and welfare of infants, toddlers and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, national surveys report that one in three mothers experiencing diaper need at some time while their children are less than three years of age and forty-eight percent of families delay changing a diaper to extend their supply; and

**WHEREAS**, the average infant or toddler requires an average of fifty diaper changes per week over three years; and

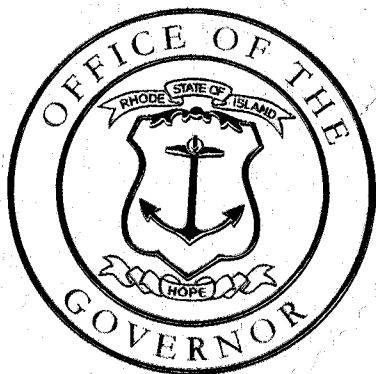
**WHEREAS**, diapers cannot be bought with food stamps or WIC vouchers, therefore obtaining a sufficient supply of diapers can cause economic hardship to families; and

**WHEREAS**, a supply of diapers is generally an eligibility requirement for infant and toddlers to participate in childcare programs and quality early education programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of Rhode Island recognize that addressing diaper need can lead to economic opportunity for the state's low-income families and can lead to improved health for families and their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Rhode Island is proud to be home to an organization like Project Undercover and its more than two dozen community partners that recognize the importance of diapers in helping provide economic stability for families and distribute diapers to poor families through various channels;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim September 26 – October 2, 2016 as: *Diaper Need Awareness Week* in the state and encourage all residents to shop at local small businesses.



Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 21 day of July, 2016

**Gina M. Raimondo**  
Governor

**Nellie M. Gorbea**  
Secretary of State