State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

# Teen Worker Safety Week

**WHEREAS,** it is appropriate to honor our teenage workers for their many contributions to the vitality and strength of our working community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Occupation Safety and Health Act requires that employers provide a safe and healthful work environment and comply with occupational safety and health standards; and

**WHEREAS**, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration requires employers to develop a safety and health program to help prevent workplace injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, a strong safety and health program involves all workers, supervisors and management; and

**WHEREAS**, training is required to ensure that young workers recognize hazards and are competent in safe work practices; training should include prevention of fires, accidents, violent situations, and what to do if injured; and young workers need to know that if they get injured, they have the right to file a claim to cover their medical benefits and some of their lost work time; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, every 5 days one teen worker is killed on the job and more than 200,000 young workers are injured yearly; and

**WHEREAS**, the injury and illness rates of young workers are double and sometimes triple that for any other age category; and

**WHEREAS**, employers stressing job safety, particularly among first-line supervisors, have the greatest opportunity to influence young workers and their work habits, and help prepare them for a safe and prosperous future in their chosen careers; and

**WHEREAS**, safe and healthy young workers provide a stable and secure pool for a skilled and educated workforce; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee,** Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim April 14-20, 2013 as Teen Worker Safety Week in the State of Rhode Island 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 15th day of March, 2013

**Lincoln D. Chafee**
**Governor**

**A. Ralph Mollis**
**Secretary of State**