

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of health and that good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of health care institutions; and
- Whereas,** inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is prevalent in many groups, including vulnerable populations such as hospitalized patients and minority populations, with older adults having the highest rate of malnutrition compared to other groups; and; and
- Whereas,** illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass, leading to complications that impact good patient health outcomes, including recovery from surgery, illness, or disease; and
- Whereas,** nutrition is a human right and Social Determinant of Health, and malnutrition is exacerbated by the global COVID-19 health pandemic, which has intensified disparities, inequities, and social isolation and is further compounded by food insecurity; and
- Whereas,** disease-related malnutrition is a highly prevalent form of malnutrition and each day, approximately 15,000 hospital patients with malnutrition go undiagnosed; and
- Whereas,** malnourished patients have two times longer hospital stays compared to patients with no malnutrition and readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection; and
- Whereas,** the 30-day hospital readmission rate is 1.6 times higher than patients without malnutrition; and
- Whereas,** malnourished patients have two times higher hospital costs compared to the average cost of all hospital stays, and readmitted malnourished patients have 22% higher hospital costs than readmitted patients with no malnutrition; and
- Whereas,** malnourished patients have three times the mortality rate of mortality of all hospitalized patients; and
- Whereas,** screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the United States; and
- Whereas,** 20-30% of adults in the community are at risk or have malnutrition which leads to more complications, falls, and readmissions, and plays a role in cognitive deterioration, decreased functional capacity, and affects the quality of life.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **September 18-22, 2023** as:

Malnutrition Awareness Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Second day of August, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State