

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of health and that good nutrition can help keep people healthy and out of healthcare 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 twenty to thirty percent of adults in the community at risk for or having malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass, leading to complications that can impact good patient health outcomes, including recovery from surgery, illness, or disease; and

WHEREAS, disease-related malnutrition is a highly prevalent form of malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, over two million hospital stays involve malnutrition per year 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, hospital costs that are two times higher than the average, and three times the mortality rate of all hospitalized patients; and

WHEREAS, the 30-day readmission rate is 1.6 times higher for malnourished patients than for those without malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection and have 22 percent higher hospital costs than readmitted patients with no malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition leads to more complications, falls, and readmissions, plays a role in cognitive deterioration and decreased functional capacity, and affects one's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 18 - 22, 2023, as

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about the importance of proper nutrition to the health and well-being of people in the Palmetto State.



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA