

# Proclamation

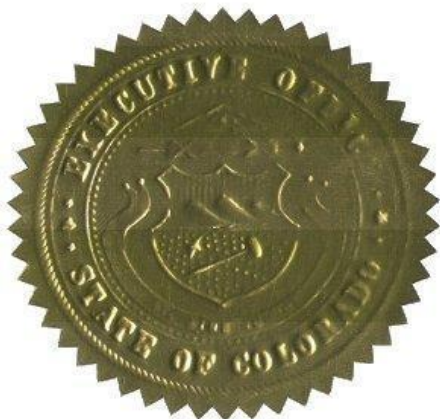
*WHEREAS, experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of health, and that good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of health care institutions; and*  
*WHEREAS, inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is prevalent in many groups, including vulnerable populations such as hospitalized patients and minority populations, with older adults having the highest rate of malnutrition compared to other groups; and*  
*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*  
*WHEREAS, over 2 million hospital stays involve malnutrition per year; and*  
*WHEREAS, 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*  
*WHEREAS, the 30-day readmission rate is 1.6 times higher than patients without malnutrition; and*  
*WHEREAS, readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection; and*  
*WHEREAS, malnourished patients have two times higher hospital costs compared to the average cost of all hospital stays; and*  
*WHEREAS, 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, twenty to thirty percent of adults in the community are at risk or have malnutrition; and*  
*WHEREAS, malnutrition leads to more complications, falls, and readmissions, and plays a role in cognitive deterioration, decreased functional capacity and affects quality of life; and*  
*WHEREAS, screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the United States; and*  
*WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment serves Coloradans by providing public health and environmental protection services that promote healthy people in healthy places and identifying and responding to emerging issues affecting Colorado's public and environmental health;*

*THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the time period between October 4, 2021 and October 8, 2021 as*

## *MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK*

*in the state of Colorado.*

*GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the state of Colorado, this fourth day of October, 2021*



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

*Jared Polis  
Governor*