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

Jared Polis
Governor