A Proclamation

Whereas, Experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health and that good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of healthcare institutions, thus reducing healthcare costs which can be up to $49 billion annually for hospital stays involving malnutrition; and

Whereas, Inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is particularly prevalent in vulnerable populations, such as hospitalized patients, older adults, and minority populations, and those populations statistically shoulder the highest incidences of the most severe chronic illnesses such as diabetes, kidney disease, cancer, and cardiovascular disease that are also impacted by nutrition; and

Whereas, nutrition is a human right and social determinant of health and malnutrition is exacerbated by the global COVID-19 health pandemic that has intensified disparities, inequities, and social isolation and is further compounded by food insecurity; 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 wound healing and recovery from surgery, illness, or disease; and

Whereas, Despite the recognized link between good nutrition and good health, nutrition screening and intervention have not been systematically incorporated across the continuum of care; and

Whereas, Clinical quality measures have been developed and tested to help improve nutrition screening and intervention and are being implemented by a learning collaborative of over 300 hospitals nationwide, yet the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has not implemented any malnutrition-specific measures in its quality incentive programs; and

Whereas, All members of the Massachusetts Commission on Malnutrition Prevention Among Older Adults recognize that an important step toward identifying and treating malnutrition is raising awareness about it and thus join with the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN), which was the first to establish a national Malnutrition Awareness Week™ in 2012,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 4th – 8th, 2021, to be,

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first day of October, in the year two thousand and twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fifth.

By His Excellency

Charles Baker
Governor of the Commonwealth

Karyn E. Polito
Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts