WHEREAS, New Mexico State University and The University of New Mexico found in a 2020 study that nearly 1 in 3 respondents experienced food insecurity during the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity contributes to malnutrition, a far-reaching and costly condition that is most prevalent among the most vulnerable New Mexicans, including hospitalized patients, older adults, and minority populations; and

WHEREAS, these vulnerable New Mexicans also have the highest incidence of malnutrition-related chronic illnesses, including diabetes, kidney disease, cancer, and cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition costs the State of New Mexico about $92.5 million annually, due to worsened disease complications, longer hospital stays and repeated readmissions; and

WHEREAS, medical and health experts agree that good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of medical institutions, thus improving their quality of life and reducing healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative effort among the public and private sector, including policymakers, healthcare experts and service providers, should prioritize strategies to reduce and prevent malnutrition among New Mexicans.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim October 4, 2021 through October 8, 2021 as:

“Malnutrition Awareness Week”

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State

Done at the Executive Office this 7th day of September 2021.

Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Mexico.

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor