

**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

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: 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, over 2 million hospital stays involve malnutrition per year; 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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 19<sup>th</sup> through September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, as

**MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK IN ARKANSAS**

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to increase awareness of the negative consequences of, and promote the importance of working alongside healthcare and community leaders to eliminate malnutrition in the State of Arkansas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, in the year of our Lord 2022.



  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:  
  
John Thurston, Secretary of State