



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PROCLAMATION

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

September 19-23, 2022

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, hunger is a reality for nearly one in nine Pennsylvanians, and according to Feeding Pennsylvania, 2 million Pennsylvanians struggled to put food on the table in 2021; and

WHEREAS, more than 500,000 children in Pennsylvania are food insecure and research shows that preschool and school-age children who experience severe hunger have higher levels of chronic illness, anxiety and depression and more behavioral problems than children receiving a well-balanced diet; and

WHEREAS, nutrition status is a direct measure of health, and proper nutrition can keep people healthy and out of health care institutions; 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, malnutrition leads to more complications, falls, readmissions, cognitive deterioration, decreased functional capacity, and affects quality of life; and

WHEREAS, screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, my administration is committed to a hunger-free Pennsylvania by providing access to healthy, nutritious food for families, students of all ages, and the elderly community through programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), State Food Purchase Program (SFPP), WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), School Nutrition Programs, Pennsylvania Senior Food Box Program, and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP); and

WHEREAS, Feeding Pennsylvania and Hunger-Free Pennsylvania member food banks offer food assistance services in each county through a network of nearly 3,000 local charitable partners, including food pantries, soup kitchens, feeding programs, and shelters.

THEREFORE, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 19-23, 2022 as MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK. I encourage all Pennsylvanians to pursue preventative health practices and early detection efforts, and to seek and support resources available in their communities.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this sixteenth day of September two thousand twenty-two, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-seventh.


TOM WOLF
Governor