  
**State of Iowa**  
**Executive Department**

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

**PROCLAMATION**

**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**, 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**, 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**, malnourished patients have two times higher hospital costs compared to the average cost of all hospital stays; and

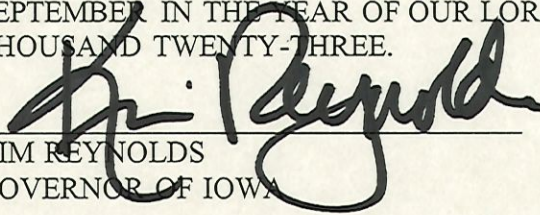
**WHEREAS**, readmitted malnourished patients have 22% higher hospital costs than readmitted patients with no malnutrition; and

**WHEREAS**, screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the United States.

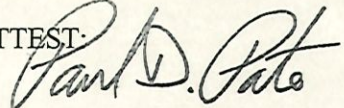
**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kim Reynolds, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim September 18-25, 2023, as:**

**Malnutrition Awareness Week**

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE.

  
KIM REYNOLDS  
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

  
PAUL PATE  
SECRETARY OF STATE