

The State of Washington



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, 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, 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, disease-related malnutrition is a highly prevalent form of malnutrition and over 2 million hospital stays involve malnutrition per year; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition can lead to more complications, falls, and readmissions, and plays a role in cognitive deterioration, decreased functional capacity and quality of life; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 18-22, 2023, as

Malnutrition Awareness Week

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 12th day of September, 2023

Governor Jay Inslee

