



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health and that good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of healthcare institutions, thus reducing healthcare costs which can be up to \$49 billion annually for hospital stays involving malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is particularly prevalent in vulnerable populations, such as hospitalized patients, older adults, and minority populations, and those populations statistically shoulder the highest incidences of the most severe chronic illnesses such as diabetes, kidney disease, cancer, and cardiovascular disease that are also impacted by nutrition; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition is exacerbated by the global COVID-19 health pandemic that has intensified disparities and social isolation and is further compounded by food insecurity and federal legislation has allocated supplemental funding for federal community nutrition programs; 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, Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS®) care plans implemented by a team of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals can improve patient nutrition to support a strong recovery and help reduce risk of complications from elective surgeries; and

WHEREAS, despite the recognized link between good nutrition and good health, nutrition screening and intervention have not been systematically incorporated across the continuum of care; and

WHEREAS, clinical quality measures can help improve nutrition screening and intervention, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for the first time has approved multiple malnutrition-specific clinical quality measures for two CMS qualified clinical data registries; and

WHEREAS, a collaborative effort among key stakeholders in the public and private sectors continues to be required to increase awareness of, reduce, and prevent malnutrition and the National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update serves as a template for such collaboration;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim October 5-9, 2020, as

Malnutrition Awareness Week

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 29th day of September 2020.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor