

Malnutrition Awareness Week™ State Resolution Template

A resolution commending the benefits of systematic nutrition screening and intervention, and recognizing the week of October 5-9, 2020 as “Malnutrition Awareness Week™” in the state of [State].

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 \$42 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

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 a CMS quality management system; 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; and

WHEREAS, The [Names of Local Supporting Groups] recognize that an important step toward identifying and treating malnutrition is raising awareness about it and thus join with The American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN), which was the first to establish a national Malnutrition Awareness Week™ in 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Resolved by the [Legislative Body] of the State of [State]: That October 5-9, 2020 is recognized as “Malnutrition Awareness Week™” in [State].