

# Proclamation

## by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- 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, 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,** disease-related malnutrition is a highly prevalent condition, affecting 32–54% of adults and up to 27% of pediatric patients every day; and
- Whereas,** malnourished patients have two times longer hospital stays compared to patients with no malnutrition and readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection; and
- Whereas,** the 30-day hospital readmission rate is 2.2 times higher than patients without malnutrition; and
- Whereas,** malnourished patients have two times higher hospital costs compared to the average cost of all hospital stays, and readmitted malnourished patients have 22% higher hospital costs than readmitted patients with no malnutrition; and
- Whereas,** malnourished patients have three times the mortality rate of mortality of all hospitalized patients; and
- Whereas,** 20-40% of adults in the community are at risk of or have malnutrition which leads to more complications, falls, and readmissions, and plays a role in cognitive deterioration, decreased functional capacity, and affects the quality of life.
- Whereas,** raising awareness is the first step toward prevention, early intervention, and ensuring every individual - especially children— has access to the nourishment they need to grow, learn, thrive; and
- Whereas,** screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the United States.
- Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *September 8-12, 2025* as:

### *Malnutrition Awareness Week*

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third Year of the State.



*Patrick Morrisey*  
Patrick Morrisey  
Governor

*By the Governor:*

*Kris Warner*  
Kris Warner  
Secretary of State