

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, malnutrition, known as inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, 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, often extending the length of hospital stay and the risk of readmission experienced even by once well-nourished patients; and

WHEREAS, experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of health; and

WHEREAS, malnourished patients have two times the mortality rate of all hospitalized patients; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition is prevalent across many groups, including hospitalized patients, groups facing systematic exclusion and those with limited access to resources; and

WHEREAS, nutrition is a human right and a social determinant of health, and malnutrition is intensified by disparities, inequities and social isolation and further compounded by food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition is a major factor in hospitalized readmissions, cost and mortality, but screening, assessment, diagnosis, and interventions can help reduce malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, Malnutrition Awareness Week aims to educate healthcare professionals, caregivers, patients, and the public on the negative consequences of malnutrition;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 8-12, 2025, as

Malnutrition Awareness Week

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

Signed this 5th day of September, 2025


Governor Bob Ferguson

