

Request for Malnutrition Awareness Week Proclamation, September 14–18, 2026

Title of Proclamation: Malnutrition Awareness Week

Name of sponsoring Organization: American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition

Date by which proclamation is needed: 8/29/2026

Description (What issue is to be recognized? Why is this issue significant, and who will benefit from this recognition?):

Importance of Malnutrition Awareness Week

Malnutrition Awareness Week is the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition’s annual health campaign to educate healthcare professionals, government leaders, community agencies, patients, and caregivers on the negative consequences of malnutrition. Malnourished patients are associated with higher medical costs, longer hospital stays, and increased mortality.

Information about Organization/Group

The American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) is dedicated to improving patient care by advancing the science and practice of clinical nutrition and metabolism. Founded in 1976, ASPEN is an interdisciplinary organization whose members are involved in the provision of clinical nutrition therapies, including parenteral and enteral nutrition. With members from around the world, ASPEN is a community of dietitians, nurses, pharmacists, physicians, scientists, students, and other health professionals from every facet of nutrition support clinical practice, research, and education. ASPEN envisions an environment in which every patient receives safe, efficacious, and high-quality nutrition care.

Proclamation Points

- WHERE AS, experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of health and that good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of healthcare institutions; and
- WHERE AS, 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

- WHERE AS, 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
- WHERE AS, nutrition is a human right and a social determinant of health, and malnutrition is intensified by disparities, inequities, and social isolation and is further compounded by food insecurity; and
- WHERE AS, disease-related malnutrition is a highly prevalent form of malnutrition; and
- WHERE AS, over 2 million hospital stays involve malnutrition per year; and
- WHERE AS, each day, approximately 15,000 hospital patients with malnutrition go undiagnosed; and
- WHERE AS, malnourished patients have two times longer hospital stays compared to patients with no malnutrition; and
- WHERE AS, the 30-day hospital readmission rate is 2.2 times higher than patients without malnutrition; and
- WHERE AS, readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection; and
- WHERE AS, malnourished patients have two times higher hospital costs compared to the average cost of all hospital stays; and
- WHERE AS, readmitted malnourished patients have 22% higher hospital costs than readmitted patients with no malnutrition; and
- WHERE AS, malnourished patients have two times the mortality rate of all hospitalized patients; and
- WHERE AS, twenty to forty percent of adults in the community are at risk or have malnutrition; and
- WHERE AS, malnutrition leads to more complications, falls, and readmissions, plays a role in cognitive deterioration, decreases functional capacity, and affects quality of life; and
- WHERE AS, screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the United States

THEREFORE, I, [governor's name], Governor of the State of [name of state], do hereby proclaim September 14 through 18, 2026, as Malnutrition Awareness Week in [name of state].

References (if needed):

1. Barrett ML, Bailey MK, Owens PL. Non-maternal and Non-neonatal Inpatient Stays in the United States Involving Malnutrition, 2016. ONLINE. August 30, 2018. U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Available: www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports.jsp. Data shared is on 2016 protein-calorie malnutrition inpatients.
2. Lanctin DP, Merced-Nieves F, Mallett RM, Arensberg MB, Guenter P, Sulo S, Platts-Mills TF. Prevalence and economic burden of malnutrition diagnosis among patients presenting to United States emergency departments. *Acad Emerg Med* 2019 Nov 14. Doi: 10.1111/acem.13887.
3. Tyler R, Barrocas A, Guenter P et al. Value of Nutrition Support Therapy: Impact on Clinical and Economic Outcomes in the United States. *JPEN Journal of Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition* 2020; 44(3): 395 – 406.
4. ASPEN Malnutrition Solutions Center at www.nutritioncare.org/Malnutrition.
5. Guenter P, Blackmer A, Malone A, Phillips W, Mogensen KM, Becker P. Current nutrition assessment practice: A 2022 survey. *Nutr Clin Pract*. 2023 Oct;38(5):998-1008.
6. DiMaria-Ghalili RA, Granche J, Coates M, et al. Prevalence of malnutrition in a national sample of older adults residing in community or residential care: NHATS 2017. *Innovation in Aging*, 2020, Vol. 4, No. S1 p. 793.
7. Guenter P, Blackmer A, Malone A, et al. Update on use of enteral and parenteral nutrition in hospitalized patients with a diagnosis of malnutrition in the United States. *Nutr Clin Pract*. 2022 Feb;37(1):94-101.
8. Compher C, Jensen G, Malone A, et al. Clinical Outcomes Associated With Malnutrition Diagnosed by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition Indicators of Malnutrition: A Systematic Review of Content Validity and Meta-Analysis of Predictive Validity. *J Acad Nutr Diet* 2024; online ahead of print.