

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Malnutrition Awareness Week™ is an annual health campaign led by the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition to educate healthcare professionals, government leaders, community agencies, patients, and caregivers on the negative consequences of malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, 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

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 affect good patient health outcomes, including recovery from surgery, illness, or disease; and

WHEREAS, disease-related malnutrition is a highly prevalent form of malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, over 2 million hospital stays per year involve malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, each day, approximately 15,000 hospital patients with malnutrition go undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, malnourished patients have two times longer hospital stays compared to patients with no malnutrition, and have two times higher hospital costs compared to the average cost of all hospital stays; and

WHEREAS, the 30-day hospital readmission rate is 2.2 times higher for malnourished patients than for patients without malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection, and have twice the mortality rate of all hospitalized patients; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition leads to more complications, falls, and readmissions; can play a role in cognitive deterioration and decreased functional capacity; and affects quality of life; and

WHEREAS, screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the United States; and

WHEREAS, with the recognized link between good nutrition and good health, a consistent collaborative effort among key stakeholders in the public and private sectors across the continuum of care is essential to increase awareness of, reduce, and prevent malnutrition.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of Mississippi, do hereby recognize September 14 -18, 2026, as

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Mississippi and encourage all residents to increase awareness of and promote the importance of working together with healthcare and community leaders to eliminate malnutrition in the State of Mississippi.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 24th day of August in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fifty-first.



TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR