

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 14-18, 2026

WHEREAS, nutrition status is a direct measure of health, and good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of healthcare institutions; screening, assessment, diagnosis and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the United States. Nearly 78,000 people in North Dakota are food insecure; and

WHEREAS, 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. Over 2 million hospital stays involve malnutrition every year; and

WHEREAS, illness, injury and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass, leading to complications impacting patient health outcomes, including recovery from surgery, illness or disease; and

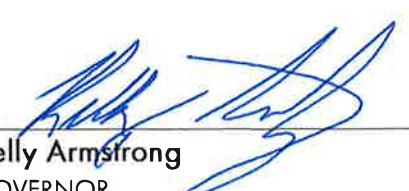
WHEREAS, 32% to 54% of hospitalized adult patients have malnutrition, and malnourished patients have two times longer hospital stays compared to patients with no malnutrition, resulting in hospital costs two times higher than the average cost of all hospital stays; and

WHEREAS, the 30-day readmission rate for patients with malnutrition is 1.6 times higher than for patients without malnutrition, and readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection, have 22% higher hospital costs and have three times the mortality rate compared with all hospitalized patients; and

WHEREAS, 20% to 40% of adults in the community are at risk of or have malnutrition, contributing to more complications, falls and readmissions, and playing a role in cognitive deterioration, decreased functional capacity and affecting quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim  
September 14-18, 2026, **MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK**  
in the State of North Dakota.



  
Kelly Armstrong  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
Michael Howe  
SECRETARY OF STATE