

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, proper nutrition is fundamental to health and well-being and plays an important role in disease prevention, recovery, and quality of life; and,

Whereas, malnutrition, including undernutrition and disease-related malnutrition, affects many populations in the United States, particularly older adults, hospitalized patients, and individuals experiencing food insecurity or chronic illness; and,

Whereas, illness, injury, and malnutrition can contribute to the loss of lean body mass and are associated with poorer health outcomes, including delayed recovery from surgery, illness, and disease; and,

Whereas, disparities in access to nutritious food, health care, and social support may increase the risk of malnutrition and negatively affect health outcomes; and,

Whereas, studies have shown that nearly 2 million hospital stays annually involve malnutrition, and malnourished patients experience longer hospital stays, higher readmission rates, increased health care costs, and higher rates of complications and mortality compared with well-nourished patients; and,

Whereas, malnutrition may contribute to functional decline, falls, diminished quality of life, and cognitive deterioration, particularly among older adults; and,

Whereas, screening, assessment, diagnosis, and timely nutrition intervention are important components of improving health outcomes and reducing the burden of malnutrition in the United States:

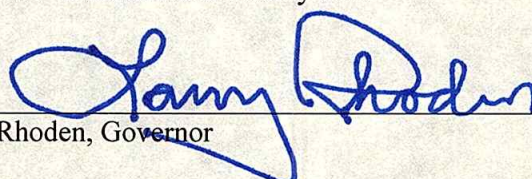
Now, Therefore, I, Larry Rhoden, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 14, 2026, as

Malnutrition Awareness Week

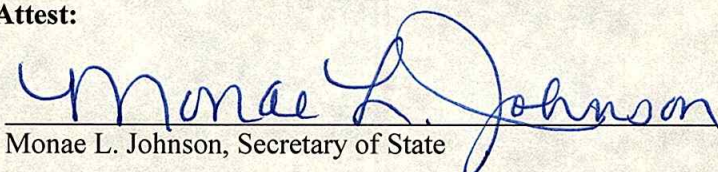
in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.


Larry Rhoden, Governor

Attest:


Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State