



WHEREAS, experts agree that nutrition status is an important social influencer 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 across multiple populations, including hospitalized patients, minority populations, and older adults with older adults experiencing a disproportionately high burden of malnutrition-particularly in clinical and long-term care settings—due to age-related, social, and health-related risk factors; and

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, 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

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

WHEREAS, nearly 2 million hospital in-patient stays involve malnutrition in the United States per year based on national data, highlighting the substantial burden of malnutrition on the healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, evidence suggests that approximately half or more of hospitalized patients with malnutrition remain undiagnosed or undocumented, leaving thousands of patients each day without timely diagnosis and resulting in missed opportunities for intervention and treatment; and

WHEREAS, a substantial proportion of hospitalized patients with malnutrition remain undiagnosed or undocumented, with studies indicating that up to half or more cases are not identified, limiting timely intervention and treatment;

WHEREAS, malnourished patients experience significantly longer hospital stays compared to well-nourished patients, with studies demonstrating up to two times longer hospital stays in certain conditions and settings; and

WHEREAS, the 30-day hospital readmission rate is 2.2 times higher in patients with malnutrition than in patients with normal nutrition status; and

WHEREAS, readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection; and

WHEREAS, malnourished patients have two times higher hospital costs compared to the average cost of all hospital stays; and

WHEREAS, readmitted malnourished patients have approximately 20-35 percent higher hospital costs than readmitted patients with no malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, hospitalized patients with malnutrition experience significantly higher mortality compared with well-nourished patients, with some studies demonstrating up to two-fold or greater increased risk depending on clinical setting and severity; and

WHEREAS, twenty to forty percent of adults in the community are at risk or have malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition among hospitalized patients is associated with increased risk of complications, falls, and hospital readmissions, contributes to decline in functional capacity and plays a role in cognitive decline, and is linked to poor quality of life; and

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

THEREFORE, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the period of time between September 14 and September 18, 2026, as

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Colorado.

GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this fourteenth day of September, 2026



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis  
Governor