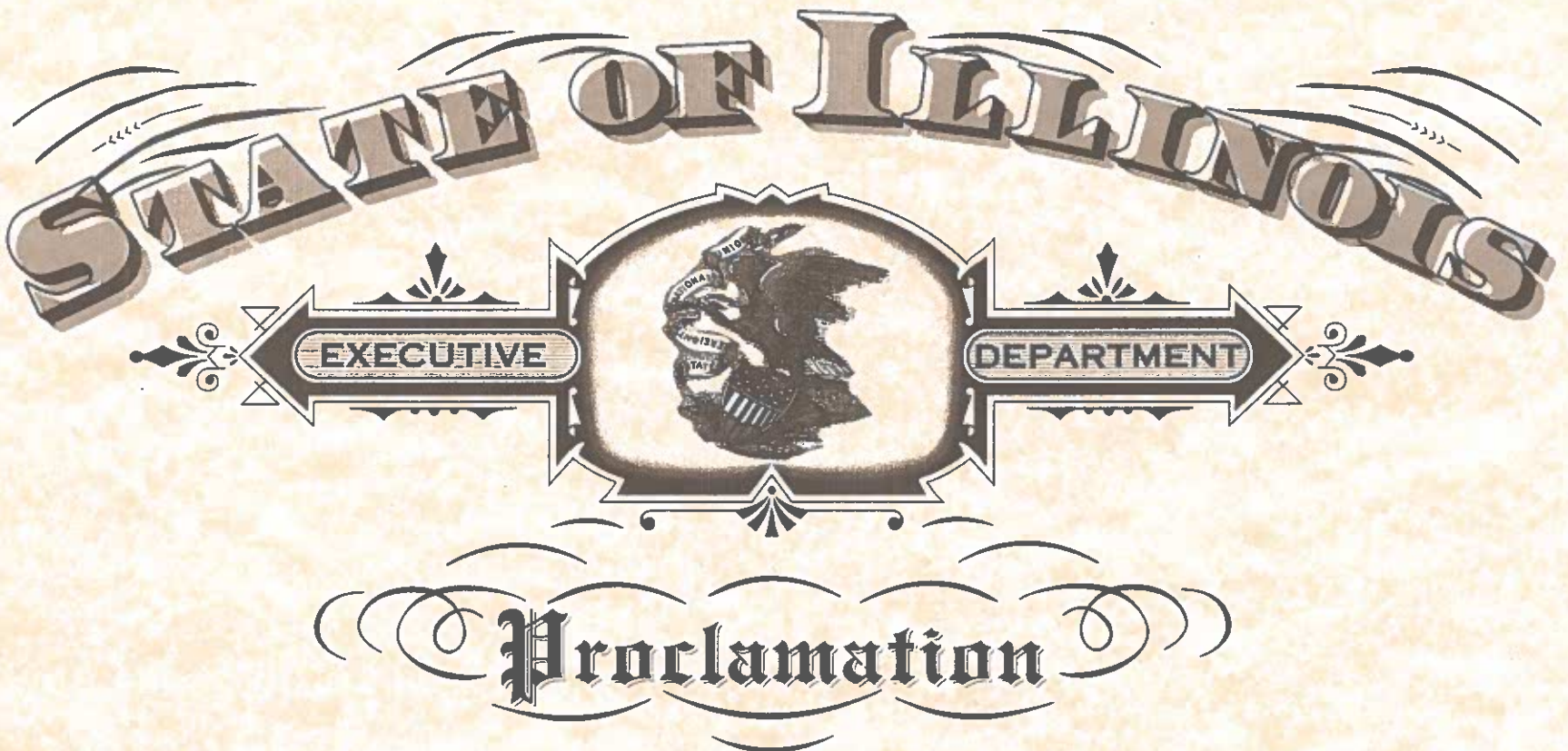




WHEREAS, experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of health and good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of healthcare institutions; and,

WHEREAS, inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is prevalent in many groups, including vulnerable populations such as hospitalized patients, minority populations, and populations with limited access to resources, 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 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 further compounded by food insecurity; and,

WHEREAS, disease-related malnutrition is a highly prevalent form of malnutrition, with over two million hospital-related stays per year; and,

WHEREAS, 32 to 54 percent of hospitalized adult patients are malnourished, who have two times longer hospital stays compared to patients with no malnutrition, and the 30-day hospital readmission rate is 2.2 times higher than that of patients without malnutrition; and,

WHEREAS, readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection, the rate of mechanical ventilation is twice as high in patients with malnutrition, and malnourished patients have two times the mortality rate of all hospitalized patients and nearly two times the cost; and,

WHEREAS, 20 to 40 percent of adults in the community are at risk of or have malnutrition; and,

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

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

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 14 - 18, 2026, as **Malnutrition Awareness Week** in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Alexi Giannouchi
SECRETARY OF STATE

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-SEVENTH *day of* AUGUST *, in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-SIX *, and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and SEVENTH *.*

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR