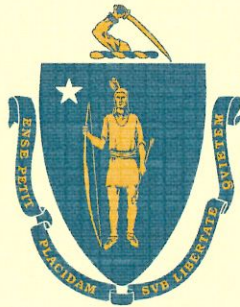


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, Inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition is a persistent obstacle affecting life in Massachusetts, closely intertwined with food insecurity; and

Whereas, Massachusetts has established an Anti-Hunger Task Force, awarded funding for child care centers, schools, colleges, and universities to purchase locally grown, nutritious food, and pushed back against federal cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the nation's largest and most effective anti-hunger program, to combat malnutrition and bolster access to healthy food; and

Whereas, Vulnerable populations, such as hospitalized patients, older adults, and minority populations, and those populations statistically shoulder the highest incidences of the most severe chronic illnesses such as diabetes, kidney disease, cancer, and cardiovascular disease that are also impacted by nutrition; and

Whereas, Experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health and that good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of healthcare institutions, thus reducing healthcare costs which can be up to \$58 billion annually for hospital stays involving malnutrition; and

Whereas, Nutrition is a human right and social determinant of health and malnutrition was exacerbated by the global COVID-19 pandemic that has intensified disparities, inequities, and social isolation and is further compounded by food insecurity; 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 wound healing and recovery from surgery, illness, or disease; and

Whereas, Establishing widespread access to a nutritious diet containing vitamins, minerals, dietary fiber, plant protein, antioxidants may extend life expectancy, lower risk of heart disease and type 2 diabetes, and help maintain healthy body mass; and

Whereas, Despite the recognized link between good nutrition and good health, nutrition screening, and intervention have not been systematically incorporated access the continuum of care; and

Whereas, the Malnutrition Scale Score (MCS) is the first nutrition-focused quality measure to improve screening and intervention included in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid's (CMS) Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program, yet it is an optional indicator that should be mandatory; and

Whereas, All members of the Massachusetts Commission on Malnutrition Prevention Among Older Adults recognize that an important step toward identifying and treating malnutrition is raising awareness about malnutrition,

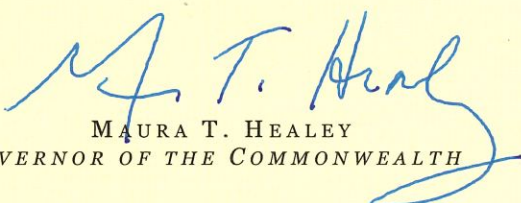
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim September 14th through September 18th, 2026, to be,

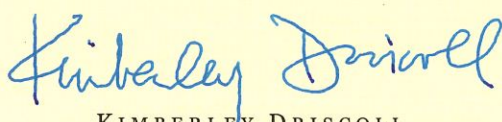
MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

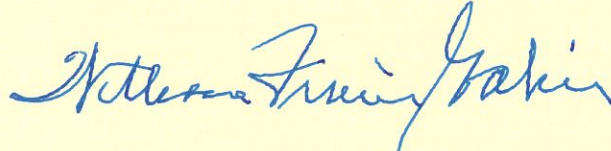
And urge all the residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this ninth day of September, in the year two thousand and twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and fiftieth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY


MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH



WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts