State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure 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 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; 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, social isolation, and food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, disease-related malnutrition is a highly prevalent form of malnutrition, with over 2 million hospital stays involving malnutrition each year and approximately 15,000 hospital patients with malnutrition going undiagnosed each day; and

WHEREAS, malnourished patients have two times longer hospital stays, a 30-day hospital readmission rate 2.2 times higher, and two times higher hospital costs compared to patients without malnutrition or the average cost of all hospital stays; and

WHEREAS, readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection and have 22% higher hospital costs than readmitted patients with no malnutrition; and

WHEREAS, malnourished patients have two times the mortality rate of all hospitalized patients, while twenty to forty percent of adults in the community are at risk 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim September 14-18, 2026 as

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 1st day of April, A.D. 2026.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

Jaye Pershing Johnson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs