

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## PROCLAMATION IN OBSERVANCE OF MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

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

Whereas, twenty to forty percent of adults in the community are at risk or have malnutrition.

Now, Therefore, We, John Carney, Governor, and Bethany Hall-Long, Lieutenant Governor, do hereby declare September 16<sup>th</sup> through September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, as

## MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Delaware, and encourage all Delawareans to observe this week by utilizing the resources offered by the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN).

OF THE GOLDER VOR

John C. Carney Governor

Bethany A. Hall-Long Lieutenant Governor

<u>19-0770</u> Number