

# The State of Maryland



## Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland  
**MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK**  
**SEPTEMBER 16-20, 2024**

- 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,** 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 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 disease-related malnutrition is a highly prevalent form of malnutrition; and
- WHEREAS,** More than 2 million hospital stays involve malnutrition per year and each day, approximately 15,000 hospital patients with malnutrition go undiagnosed; and
- WHEREAS,** Malnourished patients can have longer hospital stays that are twice as long as patients who do not experience malnutrition and the 30-day hospital readmission rate is 2.2 times higher than patients without malnutrition with readmitted malnourished patients twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection; and
- WHEREAS,** Malnourished patients incur hospital costs that are twice as high as the average cost of all hospital stays and readmitted malnourished patients have 22% higher hospital costs than readmitted patients with no malnutrition; and
- WHEREAS,** Malnourished patients have twice the mortality rate of all hospitalized patients; and
- WHEREAS,** Screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the United States.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim SEPTEMBER 16-20, 2024, as MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK in Maryland and commend this observance to all citizens.**



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September  
Two Thousand and twenty-four

Handwritten signature of Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland.

Aruna Miller

Lt. Governor  
Handwritten signature of Susan C. Lee, Lt. Governor of Maryland.

Secretary of State