

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS, experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of health and that good nutrition can help 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 twenty to forty percent of adults in the community at risk for or having malnutrition; and
- WHEREAS, illness, injury, and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass, leading to complications that can impact good patient health outcomes, including recovery from surgery, illness, or disease; and
- WHEREAS, disease-related malnutrition is a highly prevalent form of malnutrition; and
- WHEREAS, over two million hospital stays involve malnutrition per year and, each day, approximately 15,000 hospital patients with malnutrition go undiagnosed; and
- WHEREAS, malnourished patients have two times longer hospital stays compared to patients with no malnutrition, hospital costs that are two times higher than the average, and two times the mortality rate of all hospitalized patients; and
- WHEREAS, the 30-day readmission rate is 2.2 times higher for malnourished patients than for those without malnutrition; and
- WHEREAS, readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection and have 22 percent higher hospital costs than readmitted patients with no malnutrition; and
- WHEREAS, malnutrition leads to more complications, falls, and readmissions, plays a role in cognitive deterioration and decreased functional capacity, and affects one's quality of life; and
- WHEREAS, screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 16 - 20, 2024, as

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about the importance of proper nutrition to the health and well-being of people in the Palmetto State.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry D. McMaster".

HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA