

WHEREAS; experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health, and that good nutrition is critical to keeping folks healthy and out of healthcare institutions, reducing healthcare costs and improving quality of life; and

WHEREAS; inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as 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; compounded by global food insecurity, and further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic that has intensified disparities and social isolation, malnutrition presents a serious threat to public health across our state, country, and world; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that malnutrition disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including hospitalized patients, older adults, lower income communities, and communities of color, and that these populations statistically also experience the highest incidences of some of the most severe chronic illnesses that are also impacted by nutrition, such as diabetes, kidney disease, cancer, and cardiovascular disease; and

WHEREAS; while screening, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention are key to improving malnutrition, these components have yet to be systematically incorporated across the continuum of care in the United States; and

WHEREAS; combating the prevalence of malnutrition also requires addressing the presence of food deserts in communities across our state, that occur when folks do not have reasonably convenient access to food sources like supermarkets and grocery stores, and highlighting the importance not only of reliable access to food, but the availability of high-quality and nutritious food options, as well; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, the Wisconsin Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, and all key stakeholders in the public and private sectors in affirming nutrition as a human right and working to increase awareness of, reduce, and prevent malnutrition in our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 4 through 8, 2021, as

MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 5th day of October 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State