



# Proclamation

## By the Governor of Alabama

*WHEREAS*, experts agree that nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health and that good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of healthcare institutions, thus reducing healthcare costs which can be up to \$49 billion annually for hospital stays involving malnutrition; and

*WHEREAS*, inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is particularly prevalent in vulnerable populations, such as hospitalized patients, older adults, and minority populations, and those populations statistically shoulder the highest incidences of the most severe chronic illnesses such as diabetes, kidney disease, cancer and cardiovascular disease that are also impacted by nutrition; and

*WHEREAS*, malnutrition is exacerbated by the global COVID-19 health pandemic that has intensified disparities and social isolation and is further compounded by food insecurity and federal legislation has allocated supplemental funding for federal community nutrition programs; 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*, Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS®) care plans implemented by a team of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals can improve patient nutrition to support a strong recovery and help reduce risk of complications from elective surgeries; and

*WHEREAS*, despite the recognized link between good nutrition and good health, nutrition screening and intervention have not been systematically incorporated across the continuum of care; and

*WHEREAS*, clinical quality measures can help improve nutrition screening and intervention, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for the first time has approved multiple malnutrition-specific clinical quality measures for two CMS qualified clinical data registries; and

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim October 4-8, 2021, as

# Malnutrition Awareness Week

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the  
Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City  
of Montgomery on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.

*Kay Ivey*  
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Kay Ivey, Governor