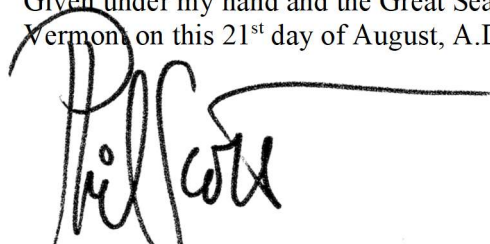


**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

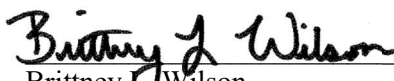
- WHEREAS,** nutrition is fundamentally linked to overall patient health, and ensuring proper nutrition can maintain health and reduce reliance on the healthcare system facilities, thereby potentially cutting healthcare expenses associated with malnutrition, which are estimated to be as high as \$51.3 billion annually in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** malnutrition, which encompasses inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, is prevalent among vulnerable groups such as hospitalized patients, older adults, and minority populations, who often face elevated rates of severe chronic illnesses like diabetes, kidney disease, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases, all significantly influenced by nutritional status; and
- WHEREAS,** nutrition is recognized as both a human right and a critical social determinant of health and the Concept “food is medicine” is pivotal, acknowledging that proper nutrition is essential not only for prevention but also as a key element of treatment for various conditions. The long-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to affect our society, perpetuating disparities and social isolation that complicate food insecurity issues among our most vulnerable populations; and
- WHEREAS,** despite the recognized importance of balanced nutrition and supporting older adults with managing their chronic health conditions nutrition screening and interventions have not been systematically integrated across the continuum of care, highlighting a gap in our healthcare delivery systems; and
- WHEREAS,** access to therapeutic nutrition is essential for restoring lean body mass, effectively addressing malnutrition challenges, enhancing clinical outcomes, reducing healthcare costs, and promoting overall health; and
- WHEREAS,** organizations such as Vermont Foodbank, Bi-State Primary Care Association, Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, Age Well, Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging, Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, Central Vermont Council on Aging, alongside numerous other agencies, individuals, and programs, are committed daily to combating and preventing malnutrition.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim September 15-21, 2024, as

**MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK**  
in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, A.D. 2024.

  
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Philip B. Scott  
Governor



  
Brittney J. Wilson  
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs