

# STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

## PROCLAMATION

### MALNUTRITION AWARENESS MONTH SEPTEMBER 2023

WHEREAS, nutrition status is a direct measure of health, and good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of health care institutions; screening, assessment, diagnosis and intervention are key to improving malnutrition in the United States; 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

WHEREAS, illness, injury and malnutrition can result in the loss of lean body mass, leading to complications impacting patient health outcomes, including recovery from surgery, illness or disease; and

WHEREAS, nutrition is a human right and Social Determinant of Health, and malnutrition has been exacerbated by the global COVID-19 health pandemic, which has intensified disparities, inequities and social isolation and is further compounded by food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, each day, approximately 15,000 hospital patients with malnutrition go undiagnosed; and

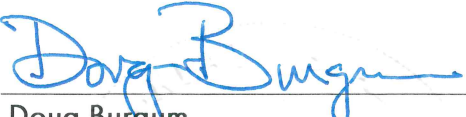
WHEREAS, malnourished patients have two times longer hospital stays compared to patients with no malnutrition, resulting in hospital costs two times higher than the average cost of all hospital stays; and

WHEREAS, the 30-day readmission rate for patients with malnutrition is 1.6 times higher than for patients without malnutrition, and readmitted malnourished patients are twice as likely to be diagnosed with an infection, have 22% higher hospital costs and have three times the mortality rate compared with all hospitalized patients; and

WHEREAS, 20% to 30% of adults in the community are at risk of or have malnutrition, contributing to more complications, falls and readmissions, and playing a role in cognitive deterioration, decreased functional capacity and affecting quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim  
September 2023, **MALNUTRITION AWARENESS MONTH** in the State of North Dakota.



  
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Doug Burgum

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

  
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Michael Howe

SECRETARY OF STATE