STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

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 $42 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, 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 U.S. 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

WHEREAS, professional nutritionists, chefs and kitchen staff, food banks, soup kitchens, home delivered and congregate meal programs, community residential providers and long-term care facilities, Farmer Market vouchers, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other organizations, agencies, individuals, and programs seek every day to reduce and prevent malnutrition;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phillip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

OCTOBER 5 THROUGH 9, 2020
AS
MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK

in New Jersey.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this second day of October in the year two thousand twenty, the two hundred forty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States.

Lt. GOVERNOR *GOVERNOR*