



**John Bel Edwards**  
GOVERNOR

## 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,** a collaborative effort among key stakeholders in the public and private sectors continues to be required to increase awareness of, reduce, and prevent malnutrition; and
- WHEREAS,** a collaborative effort among key stakeholders in the public and private sectors continues to be required to increase awareness of, reduce, and prevent malnutrition and the National Blueprint: Achieving Quality Malnutrition Care for Older Adults, 2020 Update serves as a template for such collaboration; and
- WHEREAS,** The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs recognize that an important step toward identifying and treating malnutrition is raising awareness about it and thus join with The American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition that first established national Malnutrition Awareness Week™ in 2012.
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, **John Bel Edwards**, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim October 5-9, 2020 as

**MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK**  
in the State of Louisiana.



*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand  
officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the  
State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of  
Baton Rouge, on this 5th day of October  
A. D. 2020*

*John Bel Edwards*  
Governor of Louisiana