



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

**MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, Florida's children and families deserve to lead healthy lives and reach their full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, nutrition status is a direct measure of patient health, and good nutrition can keep people healthy and out of healthcare institutions; and

**WHEREAS**, inadequate or unbalanced nutrition, known as malnutrition, is particularly prevalent in vulnerable populations, including 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 impacted by nutrition; and

**WHEREAS**, malnutrition has been compounded by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 health pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, federal legislation has allocated supplemental funding for federal community nutrition programs; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 5-9, 2020, as *Malnutrition Awareness Week*.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, in the year two thousand twenty.

  
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Governor